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Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets with Iranian parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Saturday, April 11, 2026.

Tehran Enters Islamabad Talks With Deep Distrust of Washington

Economic consequences of US-Israeli attack on Iran & ensuing war on global price stability

TEHRAN—The prospect of a coordinated US-Israeli military attack on Iran, followed by a full-scale regional war, is not merely a geopolitical crisis—it is a looming economic catastrophe.

While the immediate consequences would involve loss of life and territorial destruction, the secondary shockwaves would reverberate through every corner of the global economy.

From energy markets to food supply chains, the stability of nations far from the Persian Gulf would be tested. ▶ Page 4

Hezbollah chief praises Ayatollah Khamenei's enduring legacy on 40th day after his martyrdom

TEHRAN – Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem issued a statement on the 40th day since the martyrdom of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei praising his legacy and inspiration to the regional resistance.

In a message issued on Friday, the Hezbollah chief declared that the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei marks both a moment of deep loss and enduring strength for the resistance front. ▶ Page 2

20 million Iranians, one voice: The story of the grassroots 'JANFADA' campaign

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

TEHRAN – At a time when the world is more divided than ever grappling with crises, polarization, and social fractures, the emergence of large-scale grassroots movements takes on a meaning far beyond ordinary collective action. The "JANFADA" campaign is one such phenomenon: an initiative that began on March 29 and, in a remarkably short time, has reached a staggering figure, over 21 million participants at the time of writing. But this number is not just a statistic. Each digit represents a person with identity, belief, and a deep commitment to something called homeland.

From the very first hours of its launch, a wave of participation spread among Iranians. Social media users, ordinary citizens, cultural and sports figures, clerics, and political

officials all joined the movement in different ways. What sets this campaign apart is not only its scale, but the depth of meaning it carries: a declaration of readiness to defend Iran, in any way possible.

Support for one's homeland and the willingness to defend it is nothing new for Iranians. The country's history is filled with moments when people, despite their differences, have stood united at critical turning points. From resisting foreign invasions in ancient times to enduring the pressures of modern conflicts, one constant remains: a profound

sense of belonging to the land and a shared national identity.

In 1979, when the country faced a full-scale war, a public call for mass mobilization was met with overwhelming response. Young and old, men and women alike, each contributed in their own way. Now, 47 years later, that same spirit appears to be reemerging this time in a new form.

The "JANFADA" campaign was launched to demonstrate public readiness to defend the country under current sensitive conditions. Yet what unfolded exceeded expecta-

tions. Within just a few days, millions signed up, adding their names to a list that continues to grow rapidly.

In a message marking the 40th day since the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Iran's new Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, referred to the campaign, stating:

"Undoubtedly, your resounding cries in the public squares have a profound impact on the outcome of the negotiations. Likewise, the astonishing and ever-increasing number of millions participating in the "Ready to

Sacrifice for Iran" campaign is an influential factor in this arena."

Among those who have joined are many well-known figures: from senior government officials including heads of the three branches of power, cabinet members, and leaders of major institutions to prominent athletes. Figures such as Hadi Saei, Khodadad Azizi, Sajjad Anoushiravani, and Vahid Shamsaei publicly voiced their support. Their participation not only amplified the campaign's visibility but also underscored its broad reach across different segments of society.

Religious figures have also played an active role in promoting the movement. A video message by Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, calling on seminary teachers and students to join the campaign, marked a significant moment in its expansion, adding a spiritual dimension to the initiative. ▶ Page 3

'Damage to Pasteur Institute of Iran threatens regional health security'

TEHRAN – Mario Moreira, President of the Pasteur Network, has expressed concern over the destruction of Pasteur Institute of Iran, targeted by the US-Israeli airstrikes on April 2, and warned of the potential regional impacts as it disrupts the major role of this century-old pillar of global health in prevention and control of existing and rising health threats in the region.

"The reported damage to the Pasteur Institute of Iran is deeply concerning. This institution plays an important role in supporting the health of populations in Iran and the region. When such capacities are disrupted, diagnostics, surveillance, and response to ongoing and emerging threats may be affected, with potential implications for health security beyond national borders," Moreira highlighted. ▶ Page 7

Iran's long-term preparedness foils miscalculations of US and Israel, strategist says



TEHRAN — The recent U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran reflect a long-standing strategic agenda rather than immediate security concerns, according to Ashish Prashar, a British political strategist and human rights analyst.

Prashar, who has advised senior officials in the U.S. and Europe and appeared on outlets including CNN and The Guardian, spoke exclusively to the Tehran Times on the motivations, Western reactions, and regional implications of the assaults since February 28.

"The main driver behind these attacks is strategic alignment with Israel," Prashar said, adding, "Washington has offered multiple justifications — nuclear concerns, freedom, or oil — but these are cover stories. The goal aligns with decades of Israeli and American policy aimed at reshaping the region and neutralizing resistance forces."

▶ Page 3

'Minab 168' flight: Iran carries the weight of US aggression into Islamabad talks

TEHRAN — As Iran's delegation departed for negotiations with the United States in Pakistan, the journey itself became an act of remembrance — and a quiet indictment.

The aircraft transporting the Iranian officials was not merely a government plane. It was named "Minab-168," a deliberate tribute to the 168 people — most of them young schoolgirls — who were killed when a US missile struck the Shajareh Tayyebeh elementary school in the southern city of Minab on February 28. It was hit in the first day of the joint US-Israeli war. ▶ Page 2



Iran's Parliament speaker pays tribute to Minab victims with photographs displayed on seats during flight to Pakistan.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The untrustworthy America cannot be relied upon

Siasat-e-Rooz, in its editorial, addressed the issue of the ceasefire and the United States' record of breaking commitments. It wrote: A ceasefire has now been established after 40 days of war—the same ceasefire that the martyred Leader had emphasized should not dominate the country's atmosphere. Although one should not place hope in these negotiations or trust the United States. The agreement between Iran and the US is extremely fragile; reaching a deal, given the nature of the United States far from expected. The ceasefire period is two weeks, during which both sides must reach a comprehensive and fair agreement. Iran's legal and rightful demands are clear. But America's demands are unacceptable. If the US respects Iran's rights, and if the mediating countries include the necessary guarantees in the agreement to prevent American and Israeli war-mongering, then one can be hopeful about reaching an agreement.

Khorasan: Iran's opportunity to improve operational posture and strengthen defensive layers

Khorasan, in an analysis of the Iran-US ceasefire, wrote: Forty days of Iranian resistance is not only a military-diplomatic victory, but a paradigm shift in the geometry of global power. The current situation of Iran can be considered one of the most sensitive turning points of recent centuries—a moment in which not only a military confrontation, but the future path of the country's independence, security, and geopolitical position

is being redefined. If the ceasefire collapses after two weeks, a return to war is not unlikely. But this period does not hold equal value for both sides. In military logic, two weeks does not provide the enemy with a significant tactical advantage, because fully restoring offensive and defensive capabilities requires far more time and deeper reconstruction. In contrast, for Iran's side, it can be a meaningful opportunity to improve operational formations, strengthen defensive layers, and enhance certain field capacities.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Trump, the biggest loser of the war

Wars do not always have a clear winner, but they almost always have a clear loser. If the current fragile ceasefire leads to the end of the confrontation between Iran and the United States and its allies, many analysts believe that one of the main losers of this crisis is Trump, a politician who sought to present a new model of American power projection, but whose outcome is far from his stated goals. This conflict highlights a key lesson: military power alone does not guarantee victory. The absence of a comprehensive strategy and the disregard for long-term consequences can confront even the strongest actors with unwanted results. The recent war, rather than demonstrating a decisive victory for one side, presents an image of the limits of power and the complexities of geopolitics in the Middle East.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

A leaky umbrella: The fraying myth of US security pacts

By staff writer

TEHRAN – For a long time, Washington has peddled the same story to the world: hand your security over to us, and all you need to do is obey and pay. Once, there were those who believed it. Now, even the storyteller can no longer keep the tale straight.

The United States maintains around 800 military bases across some 80 countries and territories, accounting for 85% of all foreign military bases worldwide. These bases have never been a “public good”. They are imperial tollbooths. Every base, every defense pact, is at its core a straw thrust into the veins of an ally, drawing out geopolitical blood. Washington dresses up this naked control as “protection”, so that the exploited may still be forced to smile through their humiliation.

The empire contracts; the bill is passed on

Whose bases did America use for its aggression against Iran? American bases established in the Persian Gulf states. American warplanes took off from these bases to bomb Iran; American command systems operated through them. Iran's retaliation was thus bound to fall upon these very bases. All American military installations in the Middle East are legitimate targets. American bases did not bring security to these countries. They brought legitimate and lawful retaliation. Not an umbrella, but a lightning rod.

And where was America's protection? As Iranian retaliation continued, multiple bases sustained severe damage. Thousands of American troops were forced to evacuate to hotels to continue operations—unable even to protect themselves, let alone their host nations. A declining empire, whose own soldiers must abandon their bases and operate from hotel rooms, has lost all standing to speak of “security guarantees”. And while the Persian Gulf states bore the direct costs of war, what was Washington doing? Handing them the bill.

In March 2026, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said President Trump was “quite interested” in asking Arab countries to help cover the costs of a US war against Iran, describing it as an idea under consideration. Use your bases to strike others, let you take the hits, then demand you pay. This is not an ally. It is the object of a shakedown.

Selfishness is the nature, not an accident

Let there be no more talk of “America betraying its allies”. Betrayal presupposes loyalty, and that word has never existed in Washington's diplomatic lexicon. Every president, every Congress, every so-called National Security Strategy runs the same line of code: maximize the interests of American monopoly capital, minimize the costs

borne by the United States.

When hegemony was at its zenith, providing so-called “protection” happened to align with this algorithm—it locked down sea lanes, suppressed independent and autonomous forces, and fattened the military-industrial complex. But once primacy wanes, fiscal holes widen and domestic politics fracture, the algorithm recalculates. Costs too high? Shed the burden. Client states want reassurance? Wire the money first. If shooting actually starts, American forces evacuate first. This is not a policy mistake. It is the systemic logic of American imperialism.

Being America's ally is more dangerous than being its enemy

America is not merely an unreliable “protector”. It is a lethal ally—because it is itself the world's greatest aggressor. Serving as Washington's client is often more dangerous than standing firm in independence.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has stood unyielding in its resistance to hegemony. And those who depend on American “protection”? Washington's military presence in the Middle East has never brought genuine security to the region. On the contrary, it has turned the Persian Gulf into a powder keg ready to ignite at any moment. Every American base is a magnet—what it draws is not peace, but the fury of the oppressed and the missiles of resistance.

For decades, Washington has fanned the flames and launched wars of aggression across the Middle East, then turned to regional states and said: see? It's dangerous out here. Pay up. This racket has been running for more than half a century, and the script has not changed a single punctuation mark.

Time to wake up

A moment of clarity, then. Washington's security guarantee was never a blank check. It is a credit card long since overdrawn and cancelled. You may keep waving it at the checkout, but the terminal will keep flashing the same message: insufficient funds. In the face of the Islamic Republic of Iran's resolute and legitimate self-defense, America's demand that Persian Gulf allies “reimburse” its military expenses is merely the latest pop-up reminder.

Those countries still counting on Washington to “underwrite” their security need a new calculation. Pursue regional cooperation, but not as imperial vassals. Engage with multiple powers, but do not lash yourselves to a ship already full of holes and taking on water.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran enters Islamabad talks with deep distrust of Washington

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – High-profile Iranian and American officials held their first round of talks in Pakistan on Saturday in the wake of a two-week ceasefire, following a 40-day US-Israeli war against Iran that began on February 28.

From the US side, Vice President J.D. Vance leads the negotiations. The American delegation also includes US special envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. From the Iranian side, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf heads the delegation, which also includes Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, among other senior officials.

Delegations and technical teams

The discussions began at the political level, but technical experts from the Iranian delegation later joined the talks. The technical teams comprise economic, military, legal, and nuclear experts. Prior to the talks, both the Iranian and US delegations met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif whose country is acting as the mediator.

Atmosphere in Islamabad

Pakistani journalist Masood Chaudhary, who was present at the venue of the talks in Islamabad, described the atmosphere as “sensitive yet notably dynamic.” He told Tehran Times that “deep-seated mistrust” between Washington and Tehran remains among the key factors posing serious challenges to any immediate breakthrough.

He also described public reactions in Pakistan to the US and Israeli aggression against Iran.

“There is widespread anger over what is perceived as injustices against Iran, coupled with strong expressions of support for Tehran's assertive response to the Zionist regime. Israeli military actions in Lebanon have also drawn broad condem-



Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets with Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf, in Islamabad, Pakistan, April 11 [Pakistan's Prime Minister Office/Handout via Reuters]

nation,” Chaudhary said.

He pointed to cautious optimism surrounding the negotiations and noted that, according to Pakistani sources, significant progress has been made despite remaining differences on several key issues.

“At the political and diplomatic level, cautious optimism prevails. According to informed sources, approximately 80 percent of the key issues between Iran and the United States have reportedly seen convergence, although a deadlock remains on several critical points. Pakistani officials and interlocutors suggest that ongoing mediation efforts are likely to help bridge these remaining gaps.”

Iran's position

In a message on X on Saturday evening, President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed support for the Iranian negotiators in Pakistan, saying the delegation will “negotiate bravely” in defense of the country's interests. “In any case, our service to the people will not stop for a moment, and whatever the outcome of the negotiations, the government will stand by the people.”

On Friday, Araghchi also told his German counterpart Johann

Wadepful during a telephone call that Tehran enters the talks with Washington in “complete distrust.” The top Iranian diplomat cited repeated breaches of promise and “betrayals of diplomacy” by the US and said Iran “will fight with full authority to secure the interests and rights of the Iranian people.”

Washington's broken commitments

Prior to the latest war, Iran and the US were engaged in talks over Iran's nuclear program. Witkoff and Kushner had held indirect meetings with Iranian officials. However, before the new round of scheduled negotiations, the US and Israel launched a war against Iran, and during 40 days of strikes killed over 3,000 people.

The strikes began with the assassination of Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and several military officials in Tehran on February 28. On the same day, a US missile strike on a school in the city of Minab killed nearly 170 people, most of them schoolchildren.

Later, in addition to military sites, the US and Israel bombed Iran's energy infrastructure, hospitals, schools, development projects, and

'Minab 168' flight: Iran carries the weight of US aggression into Islamabad talks

From page 1 ▶ The name was not symbolic coincidence. It was a message written in grief.

Inside the plane, members of the delegation carried photographs of the victims, along with blood-stained school bags and personal belongings recovered from beneath the rubble of the destroyed classrooms. Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Ghalibaf, who heads the Iranian delegation, posted a haunting image from aboard the aircraft on X, writing simply: “My companions on this flight.”

Those companions were not political advisers or diplomats. They were the memories of children whose desks remain empty.

The Minab school strike stands as one of the most agonizing chapters of the conflict's opening hours. Images of shattered walls, torn notebooks, and tiny shoes scattered in dust sent shockwaves across the country. For Iranians, February 28 is not just the date a war began — it is the day innocence was buried.

Hezbollah chief praises Ayatollah Khamenei's enduring legacy on 40th day after his martyrdom

From page 1 ▶ Sheikh Qassem described the loss as profound but spiritually elevated, framing martyrdom as the highest rank attained in the battlefield of struggle.

“We live both grief and dignity. The loss is immense, and the tragedy is great for us, but the station attained by our leader in the heart of the battlefield of jihad—martyrdom on the path of Imam Husayn (the third Shia Imam)—is greater and more exalted.”

Foundations of resistance

Sheikh Qassem emphasized that Ayatollah Khamenei had solidified the ideological and strategic foundations of “authentic

Iranian authorities have firmly held US forces responsible for the strike, describing it as a blatant act of aggression against civilians and a violation of international law. American officials have suggested the possibility of an “accidental” double-tap strike, with War Secretary Pete Hegseth confirming that an investigation is underway. Yet no findings have been released, no admission has been made, and no public accountability has followed.

For the families of Minab, the language of military error rings hollow.

By naming the aircraft “Minab-168,” Tehran signaled that it would not separate diplomacy from memory, nor negotiations from justice. While US Vice President JD Vance warned that Washington would not tolerate being “played” at the negotiating table, Iran's delegation appears determined to remind the world who paid the highest price in the opening moments of the war.

The gesture was not theatrical. It was moral. In carrying bloodied school bags onto a plane bound for peace talks, Iran made



clear that it does not approach negotiations in abstraction. It approaches them with the weight of 168 lives — children who will never return to their classrooms.

As discussions unfold in Pakistan following a fragile ceasefire, the shadow of Minab looms large. Whether the talks lead to genuine de-escalation may depend on whether the United States is prepared not only to negotiate terms, but to confront the human cost of its actions.

For Iran, the message is unmistakable: the children of Minab are not a footnote in this conflict. They are its conscience.

residential areas. President Trump aimed to destroy Iran's military capabilities and alter Iran's political system in his favor through leadership decapitation. However, after 40 days of war, these objectives were not achieved.

From the first day of the war, Iran began retaliatory strikes against US bases in the Persian Gulf region and Israeli targets in cities such as Haifa and Tel Aviv. Iran also took control of the Strait of Hormuz and prevented vessels affiliated with the US, Israel, and their partners from passing through the strategic waterway. Iran's move triggered a global energy shock and was widely seen as exposing what officials and experts have described as a major miscalculation by Washington and Tel Aviv regarding Iran's military capabilities.

Growing domestic support for Iran's defensive posture, along with increasing international denunciation of the strikes, also weakened regime-change ambitions pursued by Israel and the United States.

Netanyahu's role in fueling conflict

According to US media reports, including a recent New York Times report, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been urging Trump to escalate confrontation with Iran during his visit to the White House.

According to the report, during his February 11 visit, Netanyahu told Trump that Iran's ballistic missile program could be destroyed within weeks. He also claimed that US-Israeli strikes would so weaken Tehran that it would be unable to block traffic through the Strait of Hormuz or target US assets in neighboring countries. Netanyahu further suggested that the Iranian system was “ripe for collapse,” with external support from Kurdish fighters operating from Iraq.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

iciency, and independence from global power blocs.

“He emphasized keeping pace with the modern age, scientific progress, self-sufficiency, and the right to independence without subordination to East or West.”

He further stressed that this framework was deeply rooted in Islamic teachings, connected to the message of Prophet Muhammad and the legacy of the Imams.

Assassination failed to cripple resistance

Sheikh Qassem asserted that the assassination of Ayatollah Khamenei was a deliberate attempt by Israeli-American axis to dismantle the resistance struc-

ture and destabilize Iran and its allies.

“The Israeli-American enemy sought, through the assassination of the Imam leader, to end this authentic path and shake the Iranian people and the free peoples who love his methodology.”

However, he stressed that the outcome was the opposite of what was intended.

Iran's strategic victory

According to Sheikh Qassem, Iran responded with internal unity and comprehensive resistance—military, political, and societal—effectively neutralizing the impact of the assassination.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

20 million Iranians, one voice: The story of the grassroots 'JANFADA' campaign

From Page 1 ▶ One of the campaign's most notable features is the participation of diverse religious and ethnic communities. From the Zoroastrian Association of Kerman to Sunni communities across the country, many have expressed their support. This diversity, combined with a shared purpose, presents a powerful image of national unity especially significant under current circumstances.

Yet perhaps the most important aspect of "JANFADA" is the voice of the people themselves those without official platforms or political positions, whose presence forms the backbone of the movement.

In the streets, during nightly gatherings, and across social media posts both brief and extensive, a common message emerges: "If needed, we are here."

One participant says: "Signing up isn't just symbolic. For me, it means declaring that I will stand by my country under any circumstances."

Another writes: "We didn't live through the war generation, but we've learned that defending the homeland isn't only about weapons, it's also about presence, voice, and solidarity."

Across these messages, a range



of emotions can be seen: pride, concern, hope. But what unites them all is one thing: love for Iran.

Notably, the campaign has extended beyond Iran's borders. Iranians living abroad, despite the geographical distance, have sought ways to take part.

In one widely shared message, an Iranian living in southern France says: "I can't directly participate from here, but I ask those of you in Iran to write my name down as well. I want to have a share in defending my homeland."

Such responses highlight that for many Iranians, the concept of homeland goes beyond physical geogra-

phy. Even in the farthest corners of the world, this emotional connection remains alive.

After more than ten days, "JANFADA" appears to have evolved beyond a temporary initiative into a broader social movement. The numbers continue to rise, but what matters more is the meaning behind them.

Once again, this campaign demonstrates that Iranians, at critical historical moments, are capable of setting aside differences and focusing on shared values. Support for the homeland does not stem from obligation, but from a deeply rooted belief—one embedded in the country's history, culture, and identity.

The campaign has even drawn attention from Israeli media. The Hebrew-language newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported on the widespread public response, noting that millions of Iranians have registered for the campaign, declaring their readiness to defend their country.

The report also highlighted symbolic expressions of support across Iranian cities, including a sign installed in Palestine Square in Tehran, bearing a message in Hebrew: "You can come by land with the Americans—we are waiting for you."

The newspaper concluded by noting that Iranian media portray the "JANFADA" campaign as a symbol of national unity and a spirit of resistance against external threats.

Ultimately, "JANFADA" can be seen as a contemporary reflection of a long-standing trait among Iranians: loyalty to their homeland. From the past to the present, this sentiment has taken many forms on the battlefield, in cultural life, and now as a mass public movement.

Perhaps the most important message of all is this: for many Iranians, Iran is not just a country it is part of who they are. And when that part is at stake, millions respond without hesitation, with one voice: "We are all JANFADA."

Iran's long-term preparedness foils miscalculations of US and Israel, strategist says

From Page 1 ▶ Prashar described the timing as a "major miscalculation." "Iran has been preparing for decades, particularly since the Iraq War. Policymakers underestimated both the nation's military readiness and the public's awareness of regional threats. Iran is not a country that will be caught off guard," he said.

The political strategist emphasized that Israel sees a narrow geopolitical window: "With shifting U.S. political dynamics and growing scrutiny, Israeli leadership believes this may be the last chance to advance its strategic objectives."

Addressing Europe's response, Prashar noted that public pressure and understanding remain limited. "European governments have largely stayed silent, partly due to cognitive dissonance and decades of biased narratives about Iran. Their populations are not pressing them to act," he said, citing British bases used

for U.S. bombing operations and the humanitarian toll of sanctions.

"Sanctions hurt civilians and create economic instability, yet the West often overlooks these consequences," he added.

Prashar also discussed U.S. public opinion ahead of midterm elections. "Mainstream media emphasizes economic impacts over humanitarian concerns, but Iran has effectively leveraged energy and oil supply chains, creating pressure that affects not just the region but Western societies as well," he said, warning that rising prices, medicine shortages, and disrupted supply chains could shape public perception and political accountability.

International law, Prashar observed, has been steadily weakened. "The Iraq War marked a turning point. Since then, the U.S. and its allies have selectively applied legal principles,

often targeting the Global South while ignoring violations by powerful states. Efforts like the Gaza Tribunal are a start, but international institutions remain dominated by Western powers."

Finally, he stressed the importance of firsthand reporting from Iran. "People need to see the human cost of war and sanctions. Western narratives oversimplify or misrepresent Iran, just as they did with Palestine. Sharing real experiences is crucial to challenging misconceptions and driving accountability," he stated.

"This is a critical moment. The global balance is shifting, and the world must question longstanding assumptions about Western dominance. Voices from Iran and across the region are essential to ensure truth, accountability, and a more equitable international order," Prashar concluded.

LATEST NEWS

■ No Iran deal if US pursues 'Israel First' policy in Islamabad talks: First VP

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref says no agreement is possible in Islamabad if the US prioritizes Israeli interests. Talks aim to end the US-Israeli war on Iran that began on February 28. Aref warned on X that without an "America First" approach, Iran will defend itself more vigorously, imposing greater costs on the world.

■ Iran FM calls ceasefire with US a 'responsible' decision

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described Tehran's ceasefire acceptance as a "very responsible" step toward ending the war, securing compensation, and holding aggressors accountable. In a call with his German counterpart, he urged all nations to uphold international law amid repeated US breaches of commitments.

■ Zardari warns of regional fallout if US-Iran talks fail

Former Pakistani FM Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari told Al Jazeera that there will be significant consequences "for the entire region" if the US-Iran talks fail to find a "middle ground towards a permanent peace."

■ Iran denies Axios report of US warship crossing Strait of Hormuz

Contradicting reports have emerged over whether US Navy vessels crossed the Strait of Hormuz.

Axios, citing a US official, claimed that American warships crossed the strait on Saturday for the first time since the war began, and that the passage was carried out without coordination with Tehran.

The Wall Street Journal, citing three US officials also reported that the two US guided-missile destroyers crossed the Strait of Hormuz today. The two destroyers that crossed the Strait of Hormuz were not accompanying any commercial vessels.

However, Iranian state television, quoting

a senior military official, flatly denied the report, stating: "There is no truth to the Axios claim about a US ship crossing the Strait of Hormuz."

■ White House: US has not agreed to unfreeze Iranian assets

White House official says the US has not agreed to unfreeze Iranian assets, contradicting earlier reports.

■ Macron, MBS discuss West Asia tensions, maritime security

French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman discussed the West Asia situation in a phone call.

Macron voiced full support for the ceasefire in Lebanon, calling for it to be respected and extended without delay. He also stressed the need to restore fully free and safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz as quickly as possible.

The two leaders agreed to stay in close contact to help de-escalate tensions, ensure freedom of navigation, and support a lasting peace agreement amid ongoing talks in Islamabad.

■ Iran envoy praises Iraq's solidarity with Tehran

Iran's ambassador to Iraq, Mohammad Kazem Al-e-Sadegh, hailed the Iraqi government and people for their supportive stance after the US-Israeli assassination of Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and the ensuing war against Iran, according to the Iraqi News Agency.

■ Washington Post: Pakistan urged US to give Vance lead role in talks

The Washington Post, citing White House officials, reported that Pakistan encouraged the United States to assign Vice President JD Vance a leading role in the negotiations with Iran, as talks continue in Islamabad.

■ Iranian engineers restore bombed rail

network after US-Israeli attacks

Iranian engineers rapidly repaired critical railroad bridges damaged by US-Israeli strikes across several provinces. A key bridge near Qom was reopened in under 40 hours, and another in Zanjan will be operational in 15 days. The swift restoration prevented major disruptions to freight and passenger transport.

■ Ian Bremmer: Trump underestimated Iran's military power

In an interview with India Today, analyst Ian Bremmer said the Iran war is Trump's biggest mistake across both terms. Trump underestimated Iran's ability to close the Strait of Hormuz and target US bases. Oil prices soared above \$110. Bremmer noted growing US-Israeli divergence and warned that failure of Islamabad talks could push the global economy into a deep recession.

■ WSJ: Iran retains significant missile power despite US-Israeli strikes

The Wall Street Journal, citing US intelligence, reports Iran still holds thousands of ballistic missiles, including about 1,000 of the 2,500 medium-range missiles it had before the war. Mobile launchers can be deployed from underground storage facilities. This asymmetric endurance has reportedly pushed Washington toward diplomatic talks in Islamabad.

■ CBI governor meets Pakistani deputy PM on sidelines of Islamabad talks

ISLAMABAD – Dr. Abdolnasser Hemmati, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, met with Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, on Saturday on the sidelines of the ongoing Islamabad Talks.

Both sides emphasized the importance of sustained dialogue and noted th (CBI) at peace and stability in the region remain essential for economic cooperation and shared progress.

Iran to UN: Assassination of Kharrazi is an attack on diplomacy itself

TEHRAN- Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, has said that Israel's assassination of the senior Iranian official, Kamal Kharrazi, reflects a deliberate pattern of criminal conduct aimed at silencing advocates of peaceful engagement and systematically undermining diplomatic pathways.

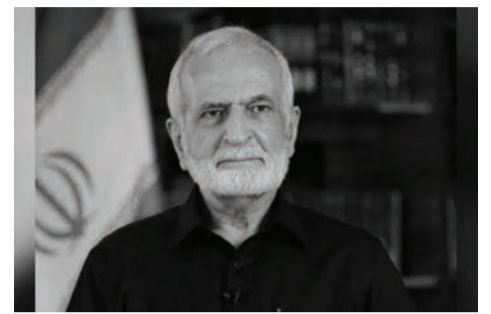
The ambassador made the remarks in a letter to the UN secretary-general and the UN Security Council president on Friday, a day after Kharrazi, who was the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, passed away from wounds he sustained in an Israeli airstrike on his home in Tehran on April 1. His wife lost her life on the spot.

Iravani called the Israeli attack "a heinous terrorist act and a horrific crime" that represented a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, particularly the right to life.

Kharrazi, who also served as foreign minister and Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, resolutely demonstrated a strong commitment to international law, the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and multilateral diplomacy, particularly the peaceful settlement of disputes as a cornerstone of international peace and security, Iravani said.

Accordingly, his assassination is not only an unlawful deprivation of the life of a civilian, but also an attack on diplomacy and the fundamental foundations of peaceful international engagement, he added.

Kharrazi's assassination once again demonstrates that the Israeli regime regards any voice, at the regional or international level, that sup-



ports peace, dialogue, and diplomacy as being in conflict with its unlawful, destructive, and destabilizing objectives, said Iravani.

According to the Iranian envoy, the assassination also reflects a deliberate pattern of Israeli criminal conduct aimed at silencing advocates of peaceful engagement and systematically undermining diplomatic channels.

Kamal Kharrazi, a veteran Iranian diplomat and former Foreign Minister, was targeted in a U.S.-Israeli airstrike on his residence in Tehran on April 1, 2026. He was 81 years old at the time. The attack occurred during a widespread U.S.-Israeli military campaign against Iran that had begun on February 28, 2026.

Dr. Kharrazi was critically wounded in the strike and was immediately hospitalized. The attack also resulted in the immediate martyrdom of his wife, Mansoureh Raees Qassem.

After succumbing to his severe injuries, Dr. Kharrazi attained martyrdom on Thursday, April 9, 2026. He is described by officials as a "tireless soldier of diplomacy" who dedicated his life to the country's foreign policy.

Iran's strong diplomacy aims to secure regional stability: Velayati

Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution on international affairs, says Iran's robust diplomatic approach is focused on safeguarding national sovereignty and promoting regional peace and stability.

In a message posted on his X account on Saturday, Velayati referred to Iran's recent diplomatic efforts, including its agreement to a Pakistan-mediated ceasefire in the U.S.-Israeli conflict and ongoing negotiations with Washington in Islamabad.

"Today's strong diplomacy reflects Iran's national power and its commitment to preserving regional stability," he wrote, adding that the presence of a delegation led by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf in the Islamabad talks demonstrates a continued determination to uphold the rights of the Iranian people.

Mearsheimer: Israel drew US into 'catastrophic war'

Renowned American political scientist Professor John Mearsheimer delivered a forceful critique during a speech at the Arab Center in Washington, D.C., blaming Israel for pulling the United States into "a disastrous war" and for obstructing efforts to reach a ceasefire.

Speaking at the event, Mearsheimer stated, "It is widely accepted that it was the Israelis who dragged us into this catastrophic war, and it is the Israelis who are preventing us from reaching a ceasefire."

He added that American public opinion toward Israel is undergoing a significant shift—one he believes will intensify over time.

Addressing the US position on Iran, Mearsheimer argued that President Donald Trump is acting out of desperation. "We are playing a losing hand. This would destroy far more

Velayati also responded to remarks by Lebanon's prime minister regarding Israeli actions in the country, saying that Nawaf Salam should recognize the unique role played by Hezbollah's resistance. Ignoring this, he warned, could expose Lebanon to serious and irreversible security risks.

He emphasized that Lebanon's stability depends on cooperation between its government and resistance forces in confronting the occupying Israeli regime.

Three days after a temporary ceasefire in the U.S.-Israeli war, an Iranian delegation headed by Ghalibaf arrived in Islamabad to begin talks with the U.S. side. The delegation traveled on a flight named "Minab 168," a reference to the killing of schoolchildren in what was described as an American-Zionist bombing on the first day of the conflict.

than a presidency. He knows this," the scholar said.

The professor also interpreted Trump's threat of "extermination" as a sign of failed escalation, adding, "By evening, he backs off. He essentially concedes defeat."

In a stark comparison, Mearsheimer concluded, "If there were Nuremberg-style trials, Joe Biden, Donald Trump, and their vice presidents would be held accountable at the highest level."

Reflecting on the psychology of defeat, he remarked, "When a country wins a war, it celebrates. When it loses, it searches for answers. And when the defeat is catastrophic, the demand for accountability becomes overwhelming."

Iranians in Yazd, Mashhad, and Bushehr hold mourning ceremonies for martyred Leader

TEHRAN – In the wake of the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, mourning ceremonies have been held across several Iranian cities, including Yazd, Mashhad, and Bushehr.

On April 9, 2026, people in Yazd, central Iran, held a mourning ceremony in honor of the martyred leader. On the same day, the people of Mashhad commemorated the 40th day of Ayatollah Khamenei's martyrdom. The

Leader was assassinated on February 28, 2026, in US-Israeli terror attacks on Iran.

Additionally, on April 11, the people of Bushehr also held a mourning ceremony for the martyred leader, expressing their grief and solidarity.

The ceremonies reflect widespread national sorrow following the loss of Iran's leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Government pursuing a plan to compensate industrial, production units damaged in war

TEHRAN- The head of the Iran Chamber of Industries and Mines stated that issues related to paying facilities, compensating damages, and supporting industrial units are on the government's serious agenda.

Abdolvahab Sahlabadi told IRNA on Saturday that over the past 40 days, the government has provided necessary support to damaged industrial and production units, and they have been corresponding, meeting, and following up daily so that industrial units can return to the production cycle as soon as possible.

He added that from the first days of the damages, the process of identifying damaged industrial, trade, and residential units across the country began swiftly.

The head of the Iran Chamber of Industries and Mines continued that many units have personally reported their damages, and these cases have been registered in the offices of industry, mining, and trade in the provinces and immediately referred to the official experts of the judiciary. Experts have visited the damage sites, and "evidence preservation" has been carried out; thus, the amount of damage to each unit has been officially determined.

Referring to numerous meetings between the chamber and the Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade, he stated that industrial organizations, including the Iran Chamber of Industries and Mines, are continuously pursuing the extent of damage to affected units.

Sahlabadi said that proposals and points raised by the organizations have been conveyed to officials, and it is expected that the results of the negotiations and follow-ups will lead to effective compensation.

The head of the Iran Chamber of Industries and Mines emphasized that the country's production must return to a dynamic and sustainable path without interruption, stating that as private sector trustees, they are seriously following this path.

He noted that the Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade, along with his deputies, have visited damaged industrial and production units and issued necessary orders for the swiftest possible return of industries to the production line, which he hopes will be followed up quickly.

Sahlabadi, while condemning the American-Zionist attacks on industrial and production units, said that UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) must be held accountable for this situation.

He stated that attacks on civilian production and industrial units are a clear violation of the United Nations Charter, international humanitarian law, and the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this must be pursued at the international level.

Minister visits damaged factories, vows support for rebuilding infrastructure

On March 25, the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, emphasizing the importance of sustaining production in wartime conditions, stressed the government and ministry's support for rebuilding infrastructure, providing facilities, and facilitating the necessary processes to restore the full capacity of damaged production units.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyed Mohammad Atabak, during his seventh field visit to units damaged in the Ramadan War, visited two manufacturing plants in the west of Tehran Province on March 25.

In the first part of this program, the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade visited a factory where part of its production lines had been taken out of operation due to being hit by enemy missiles; however, other sections of the facility continued operating without interruption.

During this visit, Atabak emphasized the importance of sustaining production and stressed the government and ministry's support for rebuilding infrastructure, providing facilities, and facilitating the necessary processes to restore the full capacity of this production unit.

In the second part of the program, the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade visited a food products manufacturing unit whose operations have been halted for over two weeks due to damage caused by a missile strike on



a neighboring factory.

While speaking with the facility's managers, he announced follow-up efforts to grant facilities and swiftly resolve infrastructural issues to bring this unit back into production.

Iran calls on UNIDO to stop attacks on non-military industrial facilities

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

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

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

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

Referring to the details of the letter and UNIDO's pivotal role in industrial development and enhancing production capabilities, the Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade said: "According to international law, non-military production units should not be targeted. In this letter, it has been requested that this international body, in line with its missions, put the necessary measures on its agenda."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Economic consequences of US-Israeli attack on Iran & ensuing war on global price stability

TEHRAN- The prospect of a coordinated US-Israeli military attack on Iran, followed by a full-scale regional war, is not merely a geopolitical crisis—it is a looming economic catastrophe.

While the immediate consequences would involve loss of life and territorial destruction, the secondary shockwaves would reverberate through every corner of the global economy.

From energy markets to food supply chains, the stability of nations far from the Persian Gulf would be tested.

This text examines why such a conflict would trigger sustained inflation, disrupt global trade, and threaten the economic well-being of both Western and Eastern nations for years to come.

Importance of price stability

In any economy, production costs and price stability are of paramount importance.

Even minor fluctuations in these variables can send ripple effects across international markets.

What unfolds in the Persian Gulf is never a purely regional economic issue; it affects the entire world.

In the event of a US-Israeli attack on Iran and the subsequent war, oil and gas prices would likely spike dramatically.

Furthermore, food prices, already vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, would surge as transportation costs rise and agricultural inputs become more expensive.

The global economy would immediately feel the pressure, regardless of geographical distance from the conflict zone.

Threat of long-term inflation

The primary concern for the world today is the potential inflation that could emerge from a war in the Persian Gulf.

Unlike short-term market corrections, this type of inflation could persist for years, re-



shaping fiscal policies and household budgets worldwide.

Naturally, all nations, whether allies or adversaries, would be alarmed.

A widespread inflationary spiral would place simultaneous strain on Western and Eastern economies, leaving no major power untouched.

Central banks would struggle to respond, caught between raising interest rates to fight inflation and avoiding recession.

Dependence on Persian Gulf energy resources

Even major manufacturing and exporting economies—such as South Korea, Japan, and China—are heavily dependent on Persian Gulf oil.

These nations are global leaders in exporting finished goods, yet their industrial machines run on energy sourced from the Strait of Hormuz.

If that energy flow is disrupted by military conflict, their production lines could slow

or halt. Consequently, global supply chains for electronics, automobiles, machinery, and pharmaceuticals would break down.

This demonstrates that events in the Persian Gulf are of extraordinary global importance.

The longer such a conflict continues, the deeper and more enduring its impact on the world economy.

In summary, a US-Israeli attack on Iran and the subsequent war would not remain confined to the battlefield.

It would ignite a chain reaction of price instability, fuel inflation, and disrupt global trade networks for years.

Nations far from the conflict would find themselves paying higher prices for food and fuel while facing potential shortages of manufactured goods.

Thus, the international community has a shared interest in de-escalation and diplomatic resolution, not only for the sake of peace but for the stability of the global economic order.

'Strait of Hormuz to determine future of global economy'

TEHRAN- An economic expert, stating that the Strait of Hormuz will determine the future of the global economy, said: Given the \$40 trillion debt of the US federal government and Russia's decision to sell oil in yuan, not only will America's position in global trade weaken, but it will also further cement China's role in the global economy.

Hamid Haj Esmaili told IRNA, referring to the economic consequences of the Persian Gulf developments following the American-Zionist coalition's aggression against Iranian territory, that Iran's strategic actions in the Strait of Hormuz following this aggression have changed global energy equations. If the state of war in the region continues, Europe's economy, East Asia, and even America's financial structure will face serious inflationary, recessionary, and currency pressures.

Noting that control of the Strait of Hormuz has made some global economies face more difficult conditions, and reports have even emerged of fuel shortages and shutdowns of non-essential facilities in various countries, he added that war is always a factor that, in addition to political and social upheavals, has direct and widespread effects on the economy. Due to the high costs and insecurities it creates, war typically affects

various economic sectors.

This economic expert continued that the war in the Persian Gulf is particularly important because this region is one of the most critical hubs for oil transit and energy supply for European, Western, and even East Asian countries. Statistics show that about 20% of the world's consumed oil is transited through the Persian Gulf countries, which multiplies the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz.

He noted that in addition to oil, the issue of gas and even chemical fertilizers has now been added to this equation — sectors that have a very large share in the global economy, and even many countries and regional governments were previously unaware of the precise extent of their impact. The share of gas and fertilizers in this region is such that it can have profound effects on the global economy.

This indicates that events in the Persian Gulf are of extraordinary importance, and the longer this trend continues, the more the global economy will be affected.

Leading economies face risk of recession

Regarding the prediction by US bank J.P. Morgan that strategic oil and energy reserves released could help control oil prices until

April 20 — less than three weeks from now — and whether we will then see so-called developed countries set back, Haj Esmaili responded: In the first weeks, Western countries and the US released part of their oil reserves, but we saw that oil prices did not drop significantly, and now prices are rising again.

The economic expert continued that countries like Japan, which are almost entirely dependent on Persian Gulf oil, may face prolonged recessions. A characteristic of Japan's economy is that if it enters a recession, recovery takes years. The same holds true for South Korea. China, of course, has different conditions due to its extensive economic network and flexible capacities, but it is still affected by energy developments in the region.

He stated that Europe is also facing serious problems now, because the economic mechanism of European countries is largely dependent on Persian Gulf energy. These countries have a significant share in the global economy, and any disruption in energy could halt their economic growth.

Haj Esmaili noted: Regarding the US, it should be noted that its economy depends above all on the capital market. Although the US produces oil and does not have the same direct dependence on the

Persian Gulf as some countries, its economy is based on the stock market and financial investments. Therefore, if financial markets are damaged, the US economy will also suffer serious harm.

America's concern is no longer just military or political prestige

The economic expert said: One of America's main concerns right now is not just political or military prestige. The US federal government has about \$40 trillion in debt, and if tensions in the Persian Gulf continue and Iran solidifies its effective control over the Strait of Hormuz, dollar-based oil trade may decline.

A reduction in dollar transactions could lower the dollar's value in the global economy.

In such a situation, countries might conduct their currency exchanges in other currencies, which could weaken the dollar's position.

Haj Esmaili continued: The US is now at a strategic crossroads.

On one hand, accepting defeat carries a cost in terms of prestige; on the other hand, continued tensions could threaten the dollar's status and America's economic influence in the world.

It is even possible that following the Persian Gulf developments, China's economic role as a major global power will be further cemented.

Shipping costs in region increased up to threefold

TEHRAN- Shipping costs are influenced by various factors, including wars and military tensions.

With any level of military tension, shipping costs typically change, with increased risk being one of these factors.

In times of tension and war, the risk of maritime transport rises, which can lead to higher insurance and security costs.

The second reason cited by experts is changes in shipping routes. During crises, ships may be forced to take longer routes to avoid dangerous areas, which can increase fuel costs and travel time.

Another factor is sanctions and restrictions.

When sanctions or restrictions are imposed on countries, shipping costs may rise due to the need to comply with these limitations.

Additionally, in wartime or tense situations, demand for goods may shift, affecting prices and shipping costs.

Experts also note that the economic situation of countries around the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman can impact shipping costs.

If a country's economy is damaged by war, it could lead to reduced trade and consequently lower shipping costs.

In this context, Masoud Polmeh, Secretary General of the Association of Shipping and Related Industries, told IRNA in an interview, referring to the increase in maritime transport costs in the region since the start of the imposed war by the US-Israeli coalition against Iran, that since the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman have been declared a "war zone," a "war risk surcharge" has been added to bulk and container shipping.

He stated that shipping costs in the region, apart from increases in insurance and war risk premiums, have in some cases grown more than threefold.

This increase does not only affect countries

within this area but generally impacts all activities carried out there, he added.

Polmeh noted that fuel costs account for about 30% of ships' operating and transport expenses, adding that recent developments in both shipping and energy sectors have led to a 100% increase in freight rates.

The Secretary General added that these figures will soon show their inflationary effects on global trade, and the pressures arising from various constraints on goods transiting the region will undoubtedly reveal their compounded impacts.

He also reminded that any movement by ships or vessels of any country in this region will be subject to the war risk surcharge.

In conclusion, he expressed hope that with the decisive victory the Islamic Republic of Iran will achieve in this imposed war, global trade, regional trade, and Iran's economic interests can return to normal as soon as possible.

Do not believe Tucker Carlson; Trump owns this war

From My Lai to Minab, America has never needed Israeli blackmail to slaughter innocents, and we should not fall for its latest escape hatch

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The latest split inside the American right has produced a familiar and dishonest story. Donald Trump's current and former defenders now want the world to believe he is not truly responsible for what he says, orders, or destroys.

They say the U.S. President is a "slave" to Israeli pressure, a victim of blackmail, kompromat, and threats from forces beyond his control.

That narrative may flatter Tucker Carlson and console the people responsible for Trump's rise, but it's deeply deceptive.

It suggests that the United States is a "good boy" that has been led astray by a foreign parasite. In reality, Trump is a willing, enthusiastic architect of this carnage, and the empire he leads is the engine of its own destruction.

The excuse that explains too much

Tucker Carlson, Candace Owens, and Alex Jones have all broken with Trump over the war on Iran, and have received his full wrath in return.

Carlson has openly suggested that Israeli blackmail may explain Trump's behavior and even describing the president as a "slave" to forces he cannot resist.

That may sound radical, but it functions as a political escape hatch. It turns American aggression into something done to America rather than by America.

Trump does not behave like a man reluctantly dragged into catastrophe.

He boasts, threatens, humiliates, and takes credit. He reaches for the microphone after his war crimes and tells everyone how strong he was.

Trump's record

Trump's conduct toward Iran alone should end the "he was forced" theory.

He exited the JCPOA, imposed maximum-pressure sanctions, authorized the assassination of General Qasem Soleimani, and then spoke about that assassination as if it were a personal triumph.

He has mocked critics of the recent war on Iran as "losers," "nut jobs," and "low IQ" people who lacked the courage to stand with



him.

During his Easter Sunday 2026 post, he issued a crude threat against the Iranian people, saying he would strike Iran's national energy infrastructure and that they would be "living in Hell." He then escalated further and warned that he would destroy the entire Iranian civilization.

The same pattern appears elsewhere. Trump has spoken casually about killing people, punishing families, and using force as a test of strength.

He revels in the performance of predatory power. That matters, because blackmail does not create a personality out of nowhere. It only works if the person being pressured is already willing to live inside the terms of brutality.

None of these excuses Israel's role. Israel's record is abominable, from the Nakba to Gaza and from Dahiyeh to Tehran; and its actions in the region are monstrous.

But acknowledging that does not require pretending Trump is innocent. He knew exactly what power he was seeking and what kind of machine he was climbing into. He wanted it all.

A consistent character from My Lai to Minab

Two massacres tell the story better than any speech.

My Lai, in Vietnam in 1968, was not a battlefield accident. U.S. soldiers deliberately murdered hundreds of unarmed civilians, including children, raped women and girls, and then the military machine moved quickly to cover it up.

The official instinct was denial, minimization, and the search for a scapegoat low enough in the chain of command to absorb public out-

goshrim, and Neot Mordechai, as well as in the city of Safed, with multiple rocket strikes.

Furthermore, rocket barrages were fired at the settlements of Dafna, Kiryat Shmona, Metulla, and Misgav Am.

An IOF army spokesperson stated that a reserve non-commissioned officer was seriously wounded while another soldier was injured due to shrapnel from an explosive drone that fell near the IOF in southern Lebanon.

Hebrew media, under strict IOF censorship, reported that the two were wounded as a result of a Hezbollah drone targeting a Hummer vehicle.

The IOF announced that dozens of rocket strikes were launched from Lebanon toward northern settlements over the past 24 hours.

Hebrew media also reported news of a drone explosion in Nahariya, while the regime's Channel 14 reported a rocket falling in the Safed area.

It also stated that firefighting teams are working to extinguish a blaze that broke out in Kiryat Shmona after a rocket fell without warning, with reports of settlers trapped.

Hezbollah stated that it had targeted all these locations on Friday.

sabotage, assassinations, and military encirclement all predate the current fever. The empire had its appetite long before the latest excuse.

Conversely, the perception of many scholars and experts for decades has been that Israel is a U.S. proxy, dependent on American weapons, parts, intelligence, funding, and diplomatic shielding. The relationship works because Washington finds it useful. Israel can absorb some of the political cost, but the larger strategy remains American.

That strategy is not about one lobby or one president. It is bipartisan, structural, and old. It has to do with primacy, oil routes, military dominance, and confronting countries such as Iran, Russia, and China.

Once that is understood, the "Israel made Trump do it" story looks less like analysis and more like compartmentalization. It spreads the blame around just enough to hide the architecture.

The operative and the limited hangout

?We must also cast a skeptical eye on the so-called dissident media figures such as Tucker Carlson.

Carlson, whose father was in the CIA and a key figure in the U.S. information warfare apparatus at Voice of America, is a man of deep intelligence connections.

His sudden turn against the Israeli lobby may be a limited hangout, a tactical disclosure of some truth to protect a deeper agenda.

Carlson is deeply embedded with the Rockbridge Network and with billionaires such as Peter Thiel, whose influence appears across today's news cycle, from the resignation of Joe Kent and the leaks related to Vance's opposition to attack Iran to Palantir's technology being used in war zones.

Thiel's network also extends into discussions about the links between "angels and demons" and Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP), a theme Carlson has repeated several times and Vance has recently said he believes as well.

Their goal is not to end the American empire, but to refine it into a more efficient, "Little Tech" version under figures such as JD Vance or Joe Kent.

rage.

Minab belongs in that same lineage. The strike on the elementary school in southern Iran, during the opening phase of the current war, killed children and teachers and was later folded into the usual language of "mistake" and "outdated intelligence."

The children of Minab will never be forgotten, and their blood stains the hands of the American president who boasted about the lethality of the missiles that took their lives.

That is how America acts.

The Carlson turn

Carlson's current line on Israel is welcome and contains real observations, but it stops too short.

He has made many Americans aware that Israel has been guilty of the Gaza genocide, has helped engulf the region in turmoil, and has maintained a brutal political order supported by American money, weapons, and diplomatic cover.

He is also right that the Epstein saga and its intelligence links remain extremely important. But from there he slides into the comforting myth that the United States itself is basically decent, merely misled by a foreign power.

That myth has done enormous work for decades. It lets Washington present itself as the reluctant superpower, the one that would prefer peace if only not for the lobby, the blackmail, the foreign influence, the bad ally.

But America's wars in the Middle East did not begin with Israel's influence, and they do not end there. The 1953 overthrow of Mohammad Mossadegh, support for Saddam Hussein during Iraq's 8-year aggression against Iran, sanctions,



The Lebanese resistance has released footage of its operation targeting the Stella Maris base belonging to the IOF in Haifa.

The footage showed one of the fighters delivering a message to Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem, as well as scenes of fighters heading to and preparing the launch site before firing missiles.

The Stella Maris base is an IOF naval military site located near Haifa on Mount Carmel, used as an important headquarters for naval operations and surveillance along the eastern Mediterranean coast.

Hezbollah military media also released footage of its fighters targeting the Gilot base belonging to Unit 8200 of the regime's military intelligence north of Tel Aviv with specialized missiles. This facility

is dedicated to electronic surveillance and cyber intelligence gathering within the regime's military.

These operations come in response to the Zionist regime's violation of the ceasefire agreement in the region. The resistance had initially adhered to the ceasefire, but emphasized that its retaliatory actions would continue until the Israeli regime and American aggression on Lebanon and its people cease.

Lebanese lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah, a member of the "Loyalty to the Resistance" parliamentary bloc, stated that the government's decision to engage in direct negotiations with the Israeli regime constitutes a "blatant breach of the constitution," cautioning against its impact on Lebanon's internal stability.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel assassinated Kamal Kharrazi to kill diplomacy, but Iranian society is dynamic

TEHRAN - The Israeli assassination of Kamal Kharrazi, chairperson of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, came as a blow to wisdom and diplomacy.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who provoked Donald Trump into an illegal war against Iran in line with his illusion of creating a new Middle East, ordered the assassination of Kharrazi to undermine diplomacy.

Netanyahu imagined that he could bring Iran to a deadlock by resorting every possible vicious moves.

Netanyahu and his inner circle of ultra-Zionists were aware of the wisdom, foresightedness and competence of Kama Kharrazi.

By serving as Iran's representative to the United Nations and foreign minister, he was considered as one of Iran's most capable persons in analyzing the complexities of diplomacy and international relations.

As a professor of cognitive science, Kharrazi's statements were fully measured. This has turned him into a treasure in the Iranian political system. He applied this approach in diplomacy and international relations.

He never entered political disputes during his long years of political career. At the same time, his mind was filled with Iran's national interests. These qualities had turned him into a unique figure. He was liked by all moderate persons, including those from major reformist and principlist factions.

It was for these reasons that he was named Iran's ambassador to the UN during Hashemi Rafsanjan's presidency, foreign minister during Mohammad Khatami's administration, and finally director of the Strategic Council on Foreign Policy by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was also assassinated in a massive Israeli-U.S. airstrike on his office in the first hours of the war on Iran on Feb. 28.

He also never used harsh language against Iran's enemies, namely Israel and the United States. He never uttered a word without careful thinking.

Being aware of his insightfulness, diplomatic cognition and understanding of the world, Israel struck his house on the 12th of Farvardin (April 1) during which his wife was instantly martyred and he himself was seriously injured and died on Farvardin 20 (April 9).

Though the criminal regime of Israel had announced that he would target current and former Iranian officials, he stayed at his home and never sought a safe place.

In a condolence message, new leader of Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei said, "The martyrdom of the eminent scholar of science and culture, the seasoned figure in foreign policy, Dr. Seyyed Kamal Kharrazi, stands as a scroll of honor for academia, university professors, and political officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran—and, in stark contrast, a scroll of infamy for the arrogance of American-Zionist oppressors and the enemies of Iran's science, culture, and civilization."

It was during his ministerial post that Iran's nuclear program became a bone of contention between Tehran and the United States. To avoid a politicization of the nuclear program and prevent factional disputes in the country, he proposed the issue to be handled by the Supreme



National Security Council that its members were from different political tastes.

In a message, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described Kharrazi as a splendid example "wisdom", "deep thinking" and "commitment to national interests". He also said Kharrazi's name is tied with "honest defense" of the Iranian nation's "sovereignty and dignity".

To abort any chance of diplomacy, the Israeli regime also martyred Ali Larjani, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, on March 17.

In a message, former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the aggressors, by assassinating honorable persons like Kharrazi and Ali Larjani with their families, demonstrated their enmity with "peace and dialogue" and the flagbearers of these two cherished principles.

In an interview with IRNA prior to the war, Kharrazi had said there should be a "balance" between Iranism, Shiism and Islamism.

Kharrazi chose moderate competent persons in the SCFR think tank as his colleagues. Among them was Abbas Araghchi until he was appointed as foreign minister by President Masoud Pezeshkian in August 2024.

To better realize his way of thinking and care about Iran's national interests, especially for those young generations who may not have read enough about his diplomatic career, it is enough to look at his congratulation message to President Pezeshkian on July 6, 2024, in which he stated: Your emphasis on utilizing leading experts in the field of foreign policy promises that, under your administration, the problems arising from the West's unjust sanctions will be resolved with dignity and authority.

Netanyahu's anger of Iran runs so deep that he was seeking and still may seek to physically eliminate any person that could or can put an end to the unjustified U.S.-Israeli war on Iran through a dignified diplomacy.

The war criminal Netanyahu felt unhappy that Ali Larjani, the philosopher turned politician, was appointed as the Supreme National Security Council after his 12-day war against Iran with the U.S. in June 2025.

However, Iranian society is dynamic and capable of adapting swiftly and robustly to new circumstances.

Now that a two-week ceasefire between Iran and the U.S. is holding with the mediation of Pakistan, Iran's top-ranking diplomats and politicians, including Foreign Minister Araghchi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, held talks on Saturday afternoon with American negotiators, including Vice President JD Vance in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

photo of the day



Crowds in Yemen's Sana'a on April 10, 2026, during a demonstration supporting Iran against U.S.-Israeli aggression, hold a banner that says in Persian: "We congratulate the Islamic Republic on this great victory."

Archaeological excavations resume at Sassanid palace in Firuzabad

TEHRAN - Archaeological excavations at the historic Palace of Ardeshir Babakan have officially resumed following a temporary suspension, according to provincial cultural heritage authorities.

Behzad Moridi, the director of Cultural Heritage Department of Fars province, announced during a recent visit to Firuzabad that the halt in excavation work has ended and operations will soon continue, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The site, which is part of a UNESCO-recognized Sassanid heritage ensemble, had seen promising discoveries since excavations began earlier this year.

Moridi explained that the pause, which began after initial findings in February, was due to specific regional conditions. "Necessary planning has now been completed, and archaeological work will resume in the near future," he said.

In addition to excavation activities, authorities are prioritizing restoration work at the palace. Moridi emphasized that preserving the structure is being pursued seriously as part of broader cultural and social responsibilities. Restoration projects are currently underway in sections of the palace, including its iconic iwans, arched halls that are a defining feature of Sassanid architecture.

The Palace of Ardeshir Babakan, built by Ardeshir Babakan in the 3rd century CE, is one of the most remarkable surviving examples of Sassanid design. Unlike many earlier Iranian structures that featured circular layouts, the palace was constructed on a square platform, a hallmark of evolving architectural trends during the Sassanid era. Measuring approximately 116 meters in length and 55 meters in width, the complex includes multiple corridors, grand halls, and three distinctive domes.

The palace once functioned as the administrative center of the early Sassanid state, with separate areas designated for official and residential use. A large audience hall adjacent to the main structure was used for meetings between the king and state officials.

Enhancing tourist access to ancient Gur

Officials are also focusing on improving access to the nearby ancient city of Gur, historically known as Gur and once a major political and cultural capital of the Sassanid Empire (224–651 CE).

Moridi stated that efforts are currently centered on facilitating visitor access to the historic site. Of the city's four main entrances, the "Ardeshir Entrance" is undergoing upgrades, including leveling and graveling, to ease transportation and improve the overall visitor experience.

Firuzabad, located south of Shiraz, spans roughly 3,579 square kilometers and attracts thousands of visitors annually. The region is renowned for its rich collection of Sassanid-era landmarks, including Qal'eh Dokhtar, a mountaintop fortress, and the



Minaret of Gur, a unique tower-like structure believed to have served both symbolic and practical purposes.

Another highlight is the Rock Relief of Ardeshir's Victory, a monumental carving depicting Ardeshir Babakan's triumph over Artabanus V. The relief is notable for its intricate detail and its rare focus on a non-religious historical event.

Cultural significance

Firuzabad holds a prominent place in Iranian history. Initially significant during the Achaemenid period, it rose to greater prominence under Ardeshir Babakan, who established it as a capital of the Sassanid Empire. Today, the region remains a major destination for enthusiasts of ancient art and architecture.

With the resumption of excavations and ongoing restoration efforts, officials hope to uncover further insights into the Sassanid era while enhancing the site's accessibility and preservation for future generations.

The Sassanid epoch is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under the Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as some palaces located in Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanid historical cities in southern Iran — titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region" — to its World Heritage list. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and Roman art that later made a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

WTTC's 'Cruising for Impact' report highlights positive impact of cruise tourism worldwide

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has launched its latest report, *Cruising for Impact*, highlighting the positive impact that cruise tourism delivers for communities and destinations around the world.

The report, which was released on Friday, shows how cruise tourism acts as a powerful driver of opportunity, supporting local livelihoods, strengthening communities, and creating long-term value in coastal and port destinations.

Alongside these positive impacts, the industry contributed US\$98.5 billion to global GDP and generated US\$199 billion in total economic output, supported 1.8 million jobs, and delivered US\$60.1 billion in wages in 2024, underlining its scale and global reach.

A key finding, based on data from Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), highlights that over 60% of cruise passengers return to desti-

nations they first discovered via cruise, demonstrating how the sector not only connects travelers to new places, but helps sustain long-term tourism demand and ongoing benefits for local communities.

The report also highlights the depth of cruise tourism's integration with local economies, with over 1.4 million jobs supported onshore. It further shows that for every 20 cruise passengers, one full-time job is supported globally, directly linking visitor demand to livelihoods across destinations.

WTTC's research reveals US\$93 billion in direct cruise-related spending, much of which flows into local businesses, supporting entrepreneurs, small enterprises, and tourism micro-economies in port and coastal destinations worldwide.

(Source: wtcc.org)

Se-Kuh-e fortress offers window into Iran's Sistan heritage

TEHRAN - Se-Kuh-e fortress, whose name means "three mountains" in Persian, is one of the most remarkable historical landmarks in southeastern Iran and the largest mud-brick structure of its kind in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Located less than 50 kilometers from the city of Zabol, this ancient fortress stands as a powerful symbol of the region's history, architecture, and cultural identity.

Set within the vast plains of Sistan, Se-Kuh-e fortress is considered one of the most important attractions in the area. It is the second tallest structure in the Sistan plain after Mount Khajeh and has been officially registered as a national heritage site of Iran since February 2003. Surrounded by open landscapes and nearby rural settlements, the fortress offers visitors a unique opportunity to explore both natural beauty and historical depth.

The broader region itself is known for its exceptional heritage. Despite being one of the driest areas in Iran, Sistan-Baluchestan is home to significant archaeological and natural sites, including the UNESCO-listed Shahr-e Sokhteh and the vast Lut Desert. Historically, this region served as a vital link between the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations, making it a crossroads of cultures and traditions.

Natural formation and setting

The name Se-Kuh-e originates from the natural formation of the site. Due to the retreat of waters from the Zabol plain and changes in the course of the Helmand River, the area was once submerged. Over time, as the water receded, three elevated landforms emerged from the plain. Initially appearing as small islands, these formations gradually became dry hills, giving rise to the name "Three Mountains."

The fortress is located in the Shib-Ab district, within the village of Se-Kuh-e. It is bordered by semi-circular plains to the northeast, the village of Delasa to the south, the lands of Lutek to the west, and another historic site to the northwest.



Architectural features and specifications

The Fortress is built on an elevated rectangular platform with an approximate area of 3,700 square meters. It has two various routes from the east and west. Today, the western entrance is largely damaged and inaccessible, while the eastern entrance remains usable but features a steep route.

The fortress is an outstanding example of traditional Sistani architecture, constructed entirely from mud brick. Its design incorporates two types of barrel vault arches, which are built along straight lines and require flat rectangular bases. These arches were constructed using both solid and hollow techniques, with single-layer and double-layer methods.

Inside the structure, corridors are covered with low-rise arches, rooms are designed with higher and more pronounced arches, roof construction follows a traditional technique in which builders start from opposite sides and gradually complete the ceiling as the structures meet in the middle. And, ultimately, most roofs are domed, reflecting architectural influences from central Iran.

Historical importance

Although some architectural

features suggest origins in the Afsharid period, the peak of the fortress's political and military significance occurred during the reign of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar. During this time, it played an important defensive role against British expansionist efforts and attempts to separate parts of Iran. It also contributed to military campaigns toward Herat.

A key historical moment took place in 1852, when Sardar Ali Khan Sarbandi raised the Iranian flag over the fortress, symbolizing loyalty to the central government.

The historical significance of Se-Kuh-e fortress can be understood in three main ways:

It was one of the last residential strongholds of a regional ruler during the Qajar era.

It represents one of the final examples of traditional Sistani architectural style.

And finally, it served as a strategic site during conflicts between Iran and Great Britain, symbolizing resistance and territorial defense.

Cultural significance and local traditions

Beyond its physical structure, the fortress holds a deep place in the cultural memory of the region. According to local oral traditions, coins were once mint-

ed within the fortress. There are also stories of a deep well in the southern section that was used during times of conflict, said to be so deep that the sound of a falling stone could not be heard. Today, only a shallow piece of this well remains.

Sistan-Baluchestan is more than a geographical region; it is a land rich in culture, traditions, and human connection. Its people are known for their hospitality, strong family ties, and respect for elders. Oral storytelling, poetry, and inherited traditions continue to preserve the memory of past generations. These cultural values, shaped by centuries of interaction between Persian, South Asian, and Islamic influences, are reflected in places like Se-Kuh-e fortress.

A Living heritage

Today, Se-Kuh-e Fortress stands not only as an architectural monument but also as a testament to the resilience, history, and cultural richness of the Sistan region. Visiting this fortress allows travelers to step into a living narrative, one shaped by nature, history, and human creativity, and to experience a unique part of Iran's heritage that continues to endure through time.

New study highlights cultural, social keys to longer-lasting housing in Iran

TEHRAN - A new academic study in Iran is challenging conventional assumptions about what makes residential buildings durable, concluding that cultural and social factors, rather than just construction materials, play a decisive role in how long people choose to live in their homes.

According to research led by Mohsen Afshari of the Art University of Isfahan, the longevity of modern housing is closely tied to human experience, social conditions, and residents' emotional connections to their living spaces. The findings, published in a scientific journal affiliated with the Tabriz Islamic Art University, suggest a need to rethink housing design beyond purely technical considerations.

Moving beyond concrete and steel

Traditionally, building durability has been associated with structural strength, using materials like steel and reinforced concrete. However, the study shows that even structurally sound buildings are often demolished due to changing land values, shifting urban needs, or dissatisfaction with living conditions. This trend contributes to environmental degradation by generating large volumes of construction waste and increasing resource consumption.

Researchers argue that focusing on the "real lifespan" of buildings, how long they remain desirable and functional for residents, can significantly reduce environmental harm while improving urban quality of life.

Key factors influencing housing longevity

The study identifies ten major socio-cul-

tural factors affecting how long residents stay in their homes. Among them are sense of belonging, spatial flexibility, modernity, media influence, social status, neighborhood quality, access to local services, and user participation in design.

However, two factors stood out across both public opinion and expert analysis: security and spatial quality. The research found that a strong sense of safety and well-designed living environments are the most critical elements influencing long-term residency decisions.

"Social security has the greatest impact on whether people choose to remain in a home," the study concludes, followed closely by the quality of interior and surrounding spaces, areas where architects play a crucial role.

A gap between experts and residents

The research also reveals a notable gap between professional perspectives and everyday experiences. For example, while experts tended to downplay the importance of emotional attachment, residents identified a strong sense of belonging as a key factor in staying in a home.

Similarly, participation in construction was found to have little impact on long-term residency. In contrast, involving residents during the design phase, especially when aligning with their preferences and quality expectations, significantly increased their willingness to remain.

Lessons from traditional Iranian architecture

The findings echo principles long embedded in traditional Iranian housing design. His-

toric homes, known for their central courtyards (hayat), inward-focused layouts, and separation of private (andaruni) and guest (biruni) spaces, were deeply rooted in cultural values and social needs.

Architectural features such as windcatchers (badgirs), thick adobe walls, and shaded iwans not only addressed environmental challenges but also enhanced comfort and livability. These homes fostered a sense of privacy, security, and belonging—qualities now identified as essential for modern housing longevity.

Moreover, aesthetic elements like stained glass (orsi), intricate plasterwork, and tranquil garden courtyards contributed to high spatial quality, reinforcing residents' emotional connection to their homes.

Toward more sustainable housing

The study emphasizes that strengthening socio-cultural infrastructure, particularly improving safety and spatial quality, can lead to reduced building demolition, lower energy and material consumption, and even improved mental well-being among residents.

Researchers recommend further investigation into the differences between expert and public priorities to better align housing policies and design practices with real-life needs.

As cities continue to grow and evolve, the study suggests that blending modern construction techniques with time-tested cultural insights may hold the key to creating more sustainable, enduring homes.

'Damage to Pasteur Institute of Iran threatens regional health security'

TEHRAN – Mario Moreira, President of the Pasteur Network, has expressed concern over the destruction of Pasteur Institute of Iran, targeted by the US-Israeli airstrikes on April 2, and warned of the potential regional impacts as it disrupts the major role of this century-old pillar of global health in prevention and control of existing and rising health threats in the region.

"The reported damage to the Pasteur Institute of Iran is deeply concerning. This institution plays an important role in supporting the health of populations in Iran and the region. When such capacities are disrupted, diagnostics, surveillance, and response to ongoing and emerging threats may be affected, with potential implications for health security beyond national borders," Moreira highlighted.

International scientific reporting, including coverage in Science Magazine, has highlighted the effects of escalating hostilities on universities and research institutions in Iran, including impacts on academic and public health infrastructure.

The Pasteur Network is an alliance of 32 organisations which plays a crucial role in tackling global health challenges through science, innovation and public health. Its distinctive strength lies in the diversity and extensive geographic reach of its membership, spanning 25 countries across five continents and united by shared values and missions for the benefit of populations, fostering a dynamic community of scientific knowledge and expertise that is both locally embedded and globally connected.

Founded in 1920, the Pasteur Institute of Iran is a longstanding member of the Pasteur Network. The Institute contributes to national, regional and global public health through its national reference laboratories, WHO Collaborating Centers, disease surveillance and diagnostics, biobanks, and essential medical countermeasures production.

Damage to or disruption of such infrastructure may have consequences beyond national borders. When public health institutes and surveillance systems



are affected, outbreak detection capacity can be reduced, essential public health functions may be disrupted, and preparedness for emerging infectious threats may be weakened. These challenges are directly linked to broader considerations of regional and global health security.

The protection of health and scientific institutions is widely recognized as important for safeguarding essential public health functions, particularly in times of crisis. Maintaining the continuity of such institutions supports not only national health systems but also collective efforts to prevent and respond to cross-border health threats.

The Pasteur Network notes the increasing international attention to the protection of health and scientific institutions and commends the efforts of the Pasteur Institute of Iran's staff to maintain essential diagnostic and public health functions under challenging circumstances.

The Pasteur Network expresses its support for its colleagues at the Pasteur Institute of Iran and reaffirms its commitment to the continuity of critical public health functions, scientific cooperation and the protection of health and research institutions worldwide.

After US-Israel coalition targeted, Pasteur Institute of Iran, the country's oldest medical research centre, the country's oldest medical research centre, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization

(WHO), warned that the conflict in Iran, and the region, is impacting the delivery of health services and the safety of health workers, patients, and civilians present at health facilities.

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

Mario Moreira, President of the Pasteur Network, has expressed concern over the destruction of Pasteur Institute of Iran, targeted by the US-Israeli airstrikes on April 2.

The Pasteur Institute in Iran sustained significant damage and was rendered unable to continue delivering health services," he wrote on X on April 3.

"The Institute was established in 1920 and has been operating for over a century in multiple areas of medical research. It plays an important role in protecting and promoting population health, including in emergencies. Two of its departments have been working with WHO as collaborating centres."

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

"What message does attack-

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

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

In a separate statement, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei condemned the strike as "heartbreaking, cruel, despicable, and utterly outrageous."

"The American-Israeli aggressors have attacked the Pasteur Institute of Iran — the oldest and most prestigious research and public health center in Iran and the entire Middle East, founded in 1920 through an agreement between the Pasteur Institute of Paris and the Iranian government," Baghaei said on X.

In addition to Pasteur Institute of Iran, other health infrastructures we're destroyed during illegal strikes. The Delaram Sina Psychiatric Hospital sustained significant damage due to a strike on 29 March, and the Tofigh Daru pharmaceutical facility, which produced medicines for treating cancer and multiple sclerosis, was damaged in another attack on 31 March. No casualties were reported from these incidents.

Since March 1, WHO has verified over 20 attacks on health care in Iran, resulting in at least nine deaths, including that of an infectious diseases health worker and a member of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

Attacks on health have also been recorded outside Tehran, including on March 21, when an explosion nearby Imam Ali Hospital in Andimeshk, Khuzestan province, led to the facility's evacuation and cessation of services.

The conflict in Iran, and the region, is impacting the delivery of health services and the safety of health workers, patients, and civilians present at health facilities. Peace is the best medicine."

Drying intl. wetlands in Golestan province coming back to life

TEHRAN – Three international wetlands of northern Golestan province, which were drying due to drought in previous years, are being restored thanks to recent rainfall, the head of the provincial Department of Environment has said.

Alagol, Ajigol, and Almagol wetlands are located close to each other near the border of Iran and Turkmenistan. Ajigol and Almagol wetlands were totally dried up, and only about five hectares area of Alagol wetland was filled with water, IRNA quoted Mojtaba Hosseini as saying.

Among the three wetlands, Alagol is the biggest one; the area of the wetland is about 2,500 hectares, followed by Ajigol wetland (320 hectares), and Almagol wetland (207 hectares), he added.

After years of drought and low rainfall, precipitation increased over the past few months, particularly in the first month of spring. On April 6, over 100 mm of rain was recorded in different parts in the north of the country.

Flooding caused by heavy rains filled Atrak watershed, which is the main water reservoir for the three wetlands, Hosseini noted.

Interestingly, the received rainfall has noticeably increased the amount of water flow in rivers and streams running through protected areas like Jahan-nama, hyrcania, and Golestan national park, he added.

The restoration of aquatic ecosystems will contribute to improving habitat diversity and supporting wildlife population such as different bird species, as well as animals such as ewes, goats, gazelles, red deer, and roe deer, in the upcoming breeding season.

According to the recent census conducted in winter, there are over 13,000 rams, ewes, goats,

and gazelles, as well as 134,000 aquatic and water-side birds live in Golestan habitats.

Wetland conservation projects

The Department of Environment (DOE) is reviving four wetlands, namely Bamdej in southwestern Khuzestan province, Gomishan in northern Golestan province, Arjan in southern Fars province, and Quri Gol in northwestern East Azarbaijan province.

The project to restore Bamdej wetland kicked off about two years ago with the help of the private sector, investing 1.3 trillion rials (around 8 million dollars), with 2 trillion rial (about 12 million dollars) more which is needed to complete the project. ISNA quoted Ahmadreza Lahijan-zadeh, the deputy head of the Department of Environment for Marine and Wetlands affairs, as saying.

Stretching for over 4,000 hectares, the wetland is home to over 134 plant species from 49 plant families, such as *leuca, carex brunnea*, reed, and *syperus*, 22 mammal species, 12 fish species, 15 species of amphibians and reptiles, and 148 native and migratory birds.

Gomishan wetland is expected to be revived by June. The wetland was registered on the Ramsar Convention in 2003. It is known as one of the main habitats for the birds. About 20 species of fish, 24 species of reptiles, over 100 water and water-side birds, and more than 30 species of mammals, like *Foca Caspinus*, live in the wetland.

Quri Gol wetland has a high potential, spanning around 160 to 200 hectares; once restored, it will turn into one of the main tourism spots. The wetland hosts over 92 bird species, which are all migratory birds, except redhead coot, 14 species of reptiles, 4 species of amphibians, and one species of fish.



The Arjan restoration project is in the beginning phase; it covers 2000 hectares. The water of the wetland depends on the amount of rainfall. The wetland is one of the main habitats for migratory birds like cranes, flamingos, wild ducks, and geese. Wetland's plant species include reeds, astragalus (milk-vetch), and sagebrush. Also, mammals like boar, jackal, and fox live in the wetland.

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 DOE 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.

Blood donation among women, first-time donors on rise during war

TEHRAN – Since the beginning of the US-Israeli imposed war on February 28, there has been a notable growth in the number of women and first-time donors referring to blood donation centers across the country, an official with the Blood Transfusion Organization has said.

First-time donors accounted for over 63 percent of the whole blood donors, and the women's contribution has increased by 79-percent, IRNA quoted Ahmad Qarahbaghian as saying.

From February 28 till April 4, more than 268,000 Iranians have referred to blood donation centers across the country, donating over 220,000 units of blood.

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

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

He told ISNA that a "waiting list" has been prepared for blood donation. "We are witnessing the formation of queues at some blood donation centers" he said, adding: "When a blood donation queue is formed at a center, the waiting time for blood donation increases and I apologize to the people for any possible delays."

Stating that the blood donation process is time-consuming, he said that the process takes about 40 minutes from registration to the end. "Although we use all the human resources capacity, the number of visits for blood donation in some centers exceeds the human resources capacity."

The aggression have so far led to the martyrdom of more than 1300 civilians, and destruction of 9669 civilian objectives including 7943 residential homes, 1617 commercial and service centers, 32 medical and pharmaceutical centers, 65 schools and educational premises, 13 Red Crescent buildings and a number of energy supply infrastructure.

The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols are at the core of international humanitarian law, the body of international law that regulates the conduct of armed conflict and seeks to limit its effects.

They specifically protect people who are not taking part in the hostilities, including civilians, health workers and aid workers, and those who are no longer participating, such as wounded, sick and shipwrecked soldiers and prisoners of war.

The Conventions and their Protocols call for measures to be taken to prevent or put an end to all breaches. They contain stringent rules to deal with what are known as "grave breaches".

In the days when the country is in a state

of war, blood donation centers in the country showcase scenes of sacrifice and solidarity.

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

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

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

According to Yektaparast, a total of 2,111,476 Iranians donated blood in the first ten months of the past Iranian year, March 2025 – March 2026).

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

During the same period, the continuous blood donation growth rate in the country increased to over 55 percent. The provinces of Semnan (more than 69 percent), Golestan, and Qom (about 67 percent) hold the highest rates for continuous blood donation, respectively, he noted.

In January 2025, the former World Health Organization (WHO) representative, Jaffar Hussain, admired the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization's (IBTO) leadership in blood safety and transfusion services, and highlighted their remarkable achievement of a 100 percent voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation system, a testament to the principles of universal health coverage in action.

He also thanked the blood donors, whose selflessness serves as an inspiration to all.

Admiring the IBTO's efforts and expertise in providing services to patients with rare blood types, the official underscored Iran's capacity to serve as a model for other nations in the realm of blood transfusion and rare blood management.

Addressing National Rare Blood Day, Hussain praised the country's steadfast commitment to equitable healthcare access, ensuring that no one is left behind, regardless of their blood type.

He commended the country's unwavering dedication to tackling the unique challenges surrounding rare blood, emphasizing the critical importance of collaboration, innovation, and unwavering determination in this global endeavor.



UN special envoy visits civilian buildings damaged by US-Israeli attacks

Jean Arnault, the UN special envoy, paid a visit on Thursday, April 9, to residential buildings and civilian infrastructure in Tehran damaged during the US-Israeli strikes. Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, accompanied Arnault.



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APRIL 12, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Do you know what is better than charity and fasting and prayer? It is keeping peace and good relations between people, as quarrels and bad feelings destroy mankind.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:05 Evening: 18:53 Dawn: 4:07 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:35 (tomorrow)

“Iran Symphony” unveiled in Italy



TEHRAN – At a ceremony in Italy, the musical work “Iran Symphony,” composed by the renowned Italian musician Antonio Pappalardo was unveiled.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Italy, MohammadReza Sabouri, ISNA reported.

The musical piece is composed as a symbol of cultural connection and solidarity with the people of Iran and a homage to their steadfastness against recent aggressions.

At the event, held in an atmosphere filled with art and epic grandeur, a piece from the final section of the symphony was presented to the attendees, which accompanied by epic verses from the great Persian poet Ferdowsi and a poem by the Italian poet Achille Zaino, titled “Lions of Pars”.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February

28 and for 40 days martyred about 3,000 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.

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

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

Delegations from Iran and the US are in Islamabad, Pakistan, to hold negotiations during the two-week ceasefire brokered by Pakistan.

Cartoon of Day



Iran Stuck in Trump’s Throat
Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Artists, cultural figures to honor Martyr Leader at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall

TEHRAN – The 40th-day mourning ceremony for the Martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei by the American-Zionist enemy will be held with the presence of cultural, artistic, and media figures at Vahdat Hall in Tehran on Sunday.

Titled “Trustee of Iran,” the event will honor the memory of the esteemed Martyr Leader, school students in Minab, and other people who lost their lives across the country in the attacks by the US and Israel, ILNA reported.

At the ceremony, a group of cultural and artistic figures will pay tribute to all those who were martyred during the 40-day war by reciting poems, elegies, and sharing memories.

The mourning ceremony is named after the pen name “Amin” (literally meaning trustee) that the Martyr Leader had chosen for his poems.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28 and for 40 days martyred about 3,000 people including Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, several officials and military commanders as well as numerous civilians, including women and children.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution was martyred during U.S.-Israeli airstrikes that targeted his office in central Tehran on the first day of the attacks. The Leader was



martyred alongside his daughter, son-in-law, grandchild, and a daughter-in-law.

Also on the same day, the Shajareh Tayyebeh 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 missile 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.

Ayatollah Khamenei was elected as Iran’s Leader in June 1989, fol-

lowing the passing of the Founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Ruhollah Khomeini.

Ayatollah Khamenei was interested in poetry and literature. He was also fond of novel and short story. He read the world’s most well-known novels and short stories. He was also a literary critic and was in contact with many of the writers and intellectuals of his time.

He attended many literary associations with the participation of great poets. He was not only a critic in poetry but also composed poems in the recent years. He also studied history books and had a good knowledge of modern history.

Ayatollah Khamenei started his research and writings when he was a theology student. He wrote and translated some books before the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Some of his books and researches are: “General Outlines of Islamic Thought in the Quran”, “Patience”, and “A Report about Historical Past and Present Condition of the Qom Seminary”.

He also translated books entitled “Imam Hassan Peace: History’s Most Magnificent Heroic Flexibility” written by Sheikh Rezi Al-e Yassin; and “Muslims in India’s Freedom Movement” written by Abdul Man’am al-Nemer.

12th Islamic Revolution Art Week kicks off with nationwide street performances

TEHRAN- The 12th edition of the Islamic Revolution Art Week officially commenced nationwide on Thursday, marking the martyrdom anniversary of Seyyed Morteza Avini.

Organized by the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, the week-long event features a diverse array of street theater, poetry nights, and art exhibitions across Tehran and several other provinces.

This year’s festivities are defined by a shift toward public spaces, aiming to foster a direct dialogue between artists and the citizenry through identity-driven and national themes.

A series of field performances and multidisciplinary art pieces are scheduled to take place at nine key locations across the capital, as well as in three other provinces.

Coinciding with the start of the week, the official poster for the 12th edition, designed by renowned artist Saber Sheikh Rezaei, was unveiled. The artwork reflects the current regional atmosphere and the spirit of the resistance.

This edition’s poster reimagines the “Entezar” (Waiting) statue—a



recurring motif of the event—transforming it from an introspective form into a dynamic symbol of action and epic struggle.

“In this design, the statue’s previous posture has evolved; a clenched fist rises toward the sky,” Sheikh Rezaei explained. “This is a deliberate metaphor for the clenched fist of our beloved Leader at the moment of his martyrdom—a symbol now shared by revolutionaries worldwide. It connects the concept of ‘Waiting’ with active struggle and fervor.”

The background of the poster, featuring a bright sky and a rising sun, serves as a harbinger of hope and the dawn of a new era in con-

temporary developments.

Islamic Revolution Art Week is held annually across Iran to celebrate the intersection of faith, art, and commitment, while showcasing the evolution of revolutionary aesthetics in the modern age. The art week is organized by the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization every year to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of documentarian Morteza Avini.

Art exhibitions and workshops, and theatrical musical performances are being organized during this week.

Avini was martyred by a land-

mine in 1993 during his last trip to the former Iran-Iraq war zone in southwestern Iran while making the documentary “A City in the Sky” about the fall of Khorramshahr and the liberation of the southwestern Iranian city during the Iran-Iraq war.

He became famous for “The Narration of Triumph” and was called “the master of martyred writers” by his colleagues and war veterans due to the fervent narrations he wrote for his documentaries.

Avini has been commemorated by various Iranian personalities and organizations on different occasions.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei participated in his funeral procession that began on Tehran’s Qarani Street at the Revayate Fath (Narration of Triumph) Cultural Institute, which was established by the Leader’s order in 1991 to produce films on the Sacred Defense.

The Cinéma Vérité festival, Iran’s major international event for documentary films, also honors films on the war and resistance every year with Avini Awards in a special section.

Mark Ruffalo brands Donald Trump ‘genocidal maniac’ after threats to Iran

Mark Ruffalo, who has been a long-time critic of Donald Trump, did not hold back as he shared his thoughts on the president’s recent threats to Iran.

Donald Trump sparked widespread panic on Tuesday, April 7, after he threatened to bomb Iran’s energy infrastructure and wipe out their entire civilization if they did not respond to his 8 p.m. deadline to make a deal. While Trump ultimately agreed to a two-week ceasefire with Iran, he raised concerns from Americans with this alarming move.

Many have since criticized the politician’s handling of the situation, with Ruffalo going as far as to brand him a “genocidal maniac.” This comes as the 58-year-old actor spoke out in early March after the United States and Israel conducted strikes on Iran and killed Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In his original Truth Social post, Trump wrote, “A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don’t want that to happen, but it probably will.”

Responding to this, Ruffalo took to X writing, “This is the language of a genocidal maniac. This is the same kind of language that lead to the genocide in Gaza that was heavily assisted by the USA. Now we have a US Pres-

ident repeating it himself. This kind of language leads to genocides. This man belongs behind bars.”

In this, Ruffalo called attention to the Gaza genocide, which refers to the reports that Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians during the war in Gaza. During this conflict, reports indicate that over 60,000 people were killed, with tens of thousands wounded.

After the star expressed his fears over further human suffering, many of his fans took to the comment section sharing their support for Ruffalo. One fan replied, “Well said!!! And supported by all the real humans in the world!!!”

Another supporter added, “Very well said. Thank you for speaking out and being on the right side of humanity. So few actors of your caliber - if any - in the American entertainment system will say anything despite knowing very well of the injustices and genocide against the Palestinians and now Iran.”

While a third person replied, “One of the clearest voices in the US right now and with a great sense of humanity. I admire you, thank you for existing.”



And someone else agreed, “It’s alarming to see such rhetoric being normalized. We need to hold leaders accountable and push for peace, not violence.” Someone else posted, “Mark, thanks for being on this side.”

US President Donald Trump recently declared on social media that “a whole civilization will die tonight,” referring to his administration’s military aggression against Iran. This genocidal threat, which specifically targets one of the world’s oldest cultures and its civilian infrastructure, has ignited a fierce backlash across the political and artistic spectrum. While US lawmakers have branded the statement “pure evil” and a blatant “war crime,” the artistic community has been particularly vocal in its condemnation.