

Iran's border trade with Iraq, Pakistan continues despite Israeli airstrike

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Iran Daily

Vol. 7858 • Wednesday, June 18, 2025 • Khordad 28, 1404 • Dhu al-Hijjah 22, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 2 pages



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Smoke billows from a fire in a building in Herziya near Tel Aviv following a fresh barrage of Iranian missiles on June 17, 2025.
● AFP

Role of artists in crisis, healing

Art's power to nurture emotional resilience, collective renewal

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**OPINION
EXCLUSIVE**

Artists hold a unique power to shape public perception and emotional resilience through their creative visions. In times of crisis, be it war, natural disasters, pandemics, or other upheavals, they can help societies process trauma and navigate uncertainty. Through their work, artists offer not only emotional solace but also help foster psychological well-being, resilience, and communal engagement.

By connecting deeply with audiences and embedding relevant messages within their art, artists provide tools for interpreting pain and reducing the

impact of collective wounds. Art becomes a channel for expressing suppressed emotions, helping individuals find motivation, hope, and strength to endure challenging times.

Moreover, artists can play a crucial role in facilitating communication, raising awareness, and promoting constructive social messages—thereby contributing to the prevention, management, and healing of crisis-related harm.

While the contribution of artists cannot be boxed into rigid scientific categories, several key aspects help illuminate their role in cultural and crisis management:

Emotional expression and reflection

Art creates a safe space for emotional release. In the face

of crisis, artists give form to their inner responses through works that consciously draw from the subconscious. These expressions, across various artistic disciplines, allow for a meaningful portrayal of shared distress.

Raising awareness and dialogue

Art can spotlight the consequences of crisis, spark public discourse, and encourage collective action. Artists become facilitators of dialogue between different parts of society, nurturing empathy and informed engagement.

Strengthening social resilience

Art binds communities. By drawing on shared human experiences, artists cultivate a sense of belonging and sol-

idarity. This unity becomes a driving force in rebuilding the social fabric after disruption.

Joy, hope amid hardship

Amid adversity, art reintroduces beauty, imagination, and possibility. Its presence can uplift spirits, restore joy, and inject hope into fractured communities.

Lasting impact

Even after the immediate crisis subsides, artists can continue to play a restorative role. By promoting cultural growth and supporting the community's spiritual recovery, they leave a long-term imprint on the collective psyche.

Archiving

Artists serve as chroniclers of crisis. Through enduring works, they capture their lived

experiences and reflections, preserving lessons for future generations. Art's long arc of influence can also shift public consciousness, inspiring behavioural change that helps avert future crises.

Dialogue with policymakers

Artists can serve as intermediaries between society and decision-makers. Their creative approaches help convey public sentiment and grassroots insight to officials, aiding in the formulation of policies that are empathetic and grounded in real human need.

Universal language

Art transcends cultural and linguistic boundaries. It creates a shared language capable of bridging divides, fostering unity, and deepening cross-cultur-

al understanding in moments of global or regional tension.

Tangible, intangible support

Artists can mobilize material and emotional aid for crisis victims. By organizing concerts, exhibitions, theatre performances, film screenings, and educational initiatives, they generate financial resources while simultaneously raising awareness. These efforts help both to mend the damage and to keep public attention focused on ongoing needs.

In sum, artists emerge as vital narrators and healers in times of turmoil. Their work not only helps individuals and communities endure and recover but also shapes a more compassionate and resilient society long after the crisis has passed.



IRGC: Mossad HQ in Tel Aviv targeted in missile strike

Israel's attack on Iran state TV 'cowardice'

International Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said in a recent statement that they targeted the intelligence buildings in the central coastal city of Herzliya, including the Mossad and the Israeli military intelligence (Aman). Despite being protected by highly advanced air defense systems, the military intelligence directorate of the Zionist regime's army, known as AMAN, and the Mossad center in Tel Aviv, used for planning assassination attacks and evil acts, were hit by the IRGC, it noted. The IRGC added that fire is now blazing in the doomed center.



A large fire breaks out at the office of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) television channel in Tehran, Iran, following an Israeli strike on June 16, 2025.
● IRNA

In Herzliya, the Israeli military censor has forbidden the publication of images and information about that site, classifying it as sensitive – that usually means that it's either a military, intelligence or strategic asset or site. Overnight, there was a tightening of restrictions in Israel.

Iran turns up heat on Israel

In a separate communique issued in the morning, the IRGC announced a fresh wave of missile attacks "more

powerful and devastating than before" had been launched against Israel. Overnight, there were alarms going off successively and throughout the night in Tel Aviv and in many northern Israeli cities. So, Israelis were going in and out of shelters pretty much all night. Loud booms were heard over Tel Aviv and West Jerusalem after the military warned of incoming Iranian missiles. Israeli search and rescue teams are operating in several locations where "reports of fallen projectiles were received", an Israeli police statement said. The fire and rescue service said there was an initial report of a "missile strike

and fire" in the Dan district, an area surrounding Tel Aviv. Already, we are hearing about the impact of all of that — 14,000 applications for compensation have been filed to Israel's Ministry of Finance from people whose homes have been damaged and 24 buildings are already condemned for demolition. This, of course, comes as the oil refinery and other refineries have been shut down, especially in Haifa, due to the damage sustained from earlier Ira-

nian missile strikes. The power plant in Haifa as well. The Iranian military forces have launched several rounds of retaliatory missile strikes against the Israeli targets since June 13 after the Zionist regime attacked Iran. The Zionist regime's unprovoked act of aggression and airstrikes on Iran's nuclear, military, and residential sites have resulted in the martyrdom of top military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary citizens, including at least 45 women and children.

Israel targets 'civilian institutions reporting truth'

Meanwhile, Israeli attacks on both military and civilian infrastructure in Iran are ongoing. In one fatal strike, Israeli forces hit a building belonging to Iran's state broadcaster in Tehran while it was airing a live TV program. The attack killed three people and prompted widespread condemnation from Iranian officials. "Israel has targeted the media and journalists to construct a false narrative about its confrontation with the Iranian nation," Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref wrote on X. Government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani, speaking live on national television Tuesday, said: "It is not the first time Israel has waged war on journalists, nor is it the first time it has shot at cameras. Have we not witnessed the martyrdom of figures like Shireen Abu Akleh? Naturally, it attacks the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting because it is the voice of the Iranian people." Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi noted the Israeli strike on the television headquarters in the capital, Tehran, on Monday demonstrates the growing desperation and cowardice of the Israeli regime. "When Israel fails to succeed on the battlefield, it targets civilian institutions that merely report the truth," he said.

Iranian FM warns of Israel's plot to expand conflict

Araghchi: Countries, UNSC responsible to stop Israel's aggression against Iran



International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Tuesday emphasized the responsibility all countries and the UN Security Council have to stop Israel's aggression against Iran and hold the regime accountable for the violation of international law. The Iranian top diplomat made the remarks in a phone call with his Polish counterpart Radoslaw Sikorski, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the European Union. Referring to Israel's targeting of Iran's public infrastructure, nuclear facilities, and the killing of Iranian people in the past days, Araghchi called the Israel's aggression a clear violation of the UN Charter and the fundamental rules of international law as well as a threat to global peace and security. Iran's top diplomat called for all governments, especially in Europe, to take "responsible stances" against the Israel's measures. He also warned other regional and global actors about the regime's conspiracy to expand the scope of the conflict, calling for vigilance of all countries in this regard. The Iranian foreign minister also held a joint phone call with his counterparts from France, Britain and Germany and the European Union foreign policy chief to discuss the latest developments. Araghchi described Israel's aggression amid nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington an "unprecedented blow to diplomacy" and called on European countries to "see the reality" and condemn the regime's actions. He stressed that Iran's "legitimate defense" would continue and warned that Israel and its supporters would bear full responsibility for any escalation. The Iranian foreign minister added that the war has obviously been started with the US support.

Trump not seeking cease-fire

US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly threatened Iran with military action in recent months if no nuclear deal is reached, said on Tuesday that he is not seeking a cease-fire between Iran and Israel but instead wants to see "a real end" to Iran's nuclear program, with Tehran abandoning it "entirely". The US president predicted Israel would not let up in its bombing campaign and suggested a decisive moment in that campaign was imminent, though he made clear he expected Israel to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities without US help. "You're going to find out over the next two days ... Nobody's slowed up so far," he told CBS News, after abruptly abandoning a G7 summit in the Canadian Rockies, saying he was returning to the White House to deal with the conflict. Speaking to reporters on the way back to Washington, Trump said he was seeking "an end, a real end, not a cease-fire". That would involve a "complete give-up" by Iran, he said. Israel's aggression against Iran has drawn international condemnations. In a strongly worded joint statement, the foreign ministers of 21 Arab and Islamic countries condemned the "brutal aggression" by the Israeli regime, warning of grave regional consequences if tensions continue to escalate. The joint communiqué expressed deep concern over the deteriorating situation and called for an immediate halt to Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic. "The escalation of such tensions poses serious threats to the security and stability of the entire region," the statement warned, emphasizing that continued Israeli attacks on Iran could lead to dangerous repercussions.

Iran's border trade with Iraq, Pakistan continues despite Israeli airstrike

Economy Desk

Trade between Iran and neighboring Iraq and Pakistan has continued with minimal disruption despite Israel's recent airstrike on Iranian soil, officials and border sources confirmed. The June 13 Israeli attack targeted infrastructure near Isfahan, prompting a temporary closure of Iranian airspace and heightened regional tensions. However, land border crossings have largely remained open, allowing commercial traffic to proceed as usual. Jahanbakhsh Sanjabi Shirazi, Secretary-General of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, told ILNA on June 17 that "land borders remain open" and cross-border trade is ongoing "as before." He emphasized that there has been "no major impact" on trade flows since the escalation. Most of Iran's border crossings with Iraq are operational. Aside from a

brief three-day suspension, business has quickly returned to normal. Tehran continues to supply Baghdad with critical goods including fuel, foodstuffs, construction materials, and machinery.



Trade with Pakistan is also proceeding under normal conditions, according to Iranian customs officials. Key border points such as Mirjaveh-Taftan, Rimdan-Gabd, and Pishin-Radig remain active, facilitating steady two-way movement of goods. Major items in transit

include rice imports and fuel exports. A logistics official in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province, speaking anonymously, reported no significant bottlenecks at border crossings. "Trade lorries are moving, customs are clearing goods, and operations are smooth," he said. While Pakistan has suspended pedestrian crossings for its nationals until further notice, cargo traffic continues uninterrupted. The official clarified, "The ban only applies to travelers, not freight." Iraq and Pakistan remain vital trade partners for Iran, especially amid Western sanctions limiting Tehran's global market access. In the last Persian calendar year ending March 20, Iran exported \$11.9 billion in non-oil goods to Iraq and \$2.42 billion to Pakistan, with petroleum products and construction materials among the top exports.

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