

Iran warns of reciprocal response after strike on desalination plant

Official: Qeshm water supply restored

Economy Desk

Iran condemned as a "blatant crime" an attack by a US-Zionist coalition on a desalination plant in the southern Qeshm Island, with Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf warning of a reciprocal response.

Qalibaf stated in a post on X, "This blatant crime will receive a reciprocal response."

"US military bases in the region have become platforms for operations against Iran. The origin of any attack will be the target of our response," he wrote.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced on Saturday that in response to the aggression from the Jafir base against the desalination plant, the US base was immediately struck by the IRGC's solid- and liquid-fueled precision missiles.

Unprecedented cyber operation

Meanwhile, in a retaliatory move, the "Hanzalah" cyber group — a hacking collective aligned with the Islamic Resistance and known for its support for Palestine — executed an unprecedented and complex cyber operation against water supply infrastructure in occupied Al-Quds. The group successfully extracted 423 gigabytes of highly confidential data and completely paralyzed the main infrastructure during the attack.



● IRNA

About 80 to 90 percent of Israel's drinking water is supplied through desalination facilities along the Mediterranean coast. The five facilities of Hadera, Sorek, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Palmachim account for the main share.

The Friday night assault targeted the Qeshm desalination plant and associated water and electricity infrastructure, which supplies between 12,000 and 15,000 liters of water daily to the island and surrounding villages. The strike disrupted water supplies to 30 villages in the central, Hara, and Shahab districts.

However, a provincial official announced on Saturday that water supply to the city of Qeshm had returned to a stable status following

the attack on the southern island's infrastructure in Hormozgan Province.

Ahmad Nafisi, the deputy governor of Hormozgan for political, security, and social affairs, stated that efforts by all responsible agencies and relief teams had resolved the issue.

Dangerous move

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also reacted to the US strike on the desalination facilities, writing on X: "In a blatant crime and an act of desperation, the US targeted the Qeshm Island desalination plant." "Attacking Iran's infrastructure is a dangerous move with grave consequences. It is the United States that has initiated such a procedure, not Iran," Araghchi added.

Government offices resume work after week-long closure

VP stresses uninterrupted production amid wartime

Economy Desk

Iranian government offices across the country resumed services on Sunday following a one-week closure due to US-Zionist aggression against the country, according to an announcement by Head of Iran's Public Administration and Recruitment Organization Alaeddin Rafi'zadeh. During a Sunday visit by First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref to the Tehran governorate, the latest status of the capital was also reviewed amid the war crisis.

Abbas Pazouki, the vice president's deputy for communications affairs, wrote on his X account: "During the visit, necessary orders were issued to maintain the full readiness of responsible agencies against any incident."

Meanwhile, during a meeting with Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak on Saturday, Aref emphasized the necessity of uninterrupted production in the country.

During the visit to the ministry, Aref was briefed on a detailed report regarding supply chain logistics, mar-



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (R) meets Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak in Tehran on March 8, 2026. ● IRNA

ket supervision and inspection protocols, the registration of orders and customs clearance for priority goods, and the operational status of manufacturing and industrial units.

He also ordered steps to ensure the supply of essential goods, particularly given the wartime conditions, and detailed government support measures for manufacturers. The US and Israel began their aggression against Iran last Saturday by attacking 30 targets across the capital Tehran, killing several senior Iranian officials.

During the meeting, Minister Atabak presented a report to the first vice president detailing the monitoring of essential goods markets and the raw materials required by production factories.

Furthermore, citing field inspections of manufacturing, industrial, and food production units in industrial estates across Tehran Province, Atabak identified working capital and government-backed insurance and tax incentives as the primary needs of the sector, noting the ongoing two to three-shift workforce operations.



Over 1,500 Iranian women, children injured in strikes

Social Desk

The head of Iran's Emergency Medical Organization said that among those who have been injured by the US-Israeli air strikes on the country, 1,044 are women, 584 are under 18 years old, and 54 are under five.

Regarding fatalities, Jafar Miadfar stated that 190 of the deceased were under 18, and six were under five. Among the total number of recorded fatalities, 198 were women,

none of whom had any connection to military activities. Miadfar noted that the youngest victim was an eight-month-old girl, while the oldest was an 88-year-old man. He added that the health sector itself has also suffered damages: about 11 emergency stations and two healthcare centers have been damaged, 12 ambulances have been severely damaged, and 19 hospitals have sustained minor to severe destruction. Referring to casualties among

medical personnel, he reported that unfortunately, around 11 healthcare workers have been martyred, three of whom were pre-hospital emergency staff killed in the line of duty. Furthermore, around 33 health workers were injured in the incidents, several of whom remain hospitalized and under treatment. Despite all of this, Miadfar assured that various sectors of Iran's health system have been fully mobilized. "From health centers and emergen-

cy stations to hospitals and pharmaceutical facilities, all parts of the health sector have been on duty since the first day of the Zionist-American war, making every effort to provide services to the public," he concluded.



The medical staff of Gandhi Hospital, which was recently hit during an air strike on Tehran, gather outside to condemn the killing of innocent children and their colleagues, on March 7, 2026. ● IRNA

Science under fire

Enemy air raids destroy parts of Pasteur Institute

Social Desk

In recent days, Israeli and American air strikes against Iran have reportedly damaged and destroyed parts of the Pasteur Institute of Iran's buildings and facilities.

According to the Ministry of Health, several buildings of the Pasteur Institute have been completely destroyed, and damage to laboratory equipment and facilities has created difficulties for the continued operation of this historic and nationally significant research center.

Despite this, pre-planned contingency measures have prevented disruption to the institute's core scientific and national activities.

The institute reported that the affected premises — covering an area

of 24,000 square meters — included 13 national reference laboratories, three affiliated reference labs, eight health laboratories, 23 research departments, two World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating centers, three biobanks, three research network secretariats, three research centers, one vaccination unit, and one laboratory approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Founded in 1920 (1299 in the Persian calendar), the Pasteur Institute of Iran is the eleventh oldest institute in the global Pasteur Network, which comprises 33 institutions worldwide and has been at the forefront of combating infectious diseases for over a century.

Throughout its distinguished history, the Pasteur Institute of Iran

has led efforts in the production of vaccines and diagnostic kits, operation of specialized diagnostic laboratories, and research addressing national health needs. It has played a pioneering role in controlling diseases, such as smallpox, cholera, plague, relapsing fever, rabies, tuberculosis, hepatitis, viral hemorrhagic fevers, and COVID-19, as well as in monitoring emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

The institute has also been instrumental in training specialists in basic sciences, public health, infectious disease diagnostics, and vaccine research, thereby contributing significantly to advancing the knowledge and skills of health professionals in Iran.

Labor minister urges ILO to stick to its mission of promoting social justice

Social Desk

Iranian Minister Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare Ahmad Meydari on Sunday called on the International Labour Organization (ILO) to remain committed to its main mission of promoting social justice for which it came to existence in the wake of the First World War.

"The ILO was established with the aim of promoting social justice and contributing to global peace," Meydari said during a phone conversation with ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Houngbo. Meydari said the UN agency

could play a more active role "today more than ever" in preventing conflicts and promoting lasting peace due to ongoing tensions and conflicts in different parts of the world including Iran, Ukraine, Venezuela, Greenland, Lebanon, and the Gaza Strip.

Houngbo expressed concern about the military conflict in Iran and reiterated the organization's commitment to peace. He said that ILO, as part of the United Nations, aligned itself with the positions expressed by the UN secretary-general and opposed war, saying that lasting peace was essential for safeguarding the interests of

workers around the world. Houngbo noted that sustainable peace and social justice were closely interconnected. Highlighting the organization's capacities in wartime, he pointed to the role of labor organizations and global trade union networks, including the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), in drawing attention to the negative consequences of war for workers and social justice.

He also suggested the potential of the Asia and Pacific Group be activated under the ILO to facilitate discussion on such issues and help member states develop common position.