

Minister: Over 43,000 homes, businesses damaged in US-Israel attacks

Supply chains remain unbroken

Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh has confirmed that more than 43,000 residential and commercial units have been damaged since the start of the US-Israel coalition attacks on February 28, with assessments of the full extent of destruction still ongoing. Speaking in a press briefing on Saturday, Sadegh said that 17 provinces across the country have suffered significant damage. Of the affected units, 700 have been completely destroyed, and approximately 7,000 require partial repairs.

She added that Tehran's municipal authorities are leading recovery operations within the capital city. "The Ministry of Roads and Urban Development has held ongoing coordination meetings with the Housing Foundation and provincial governors," Sadegh said. "While the Housing Foundation will oversee partial repairs, major reconstruction projects will be jointly managed with provincial authorities to ensure a swift and effective response."

Regarding the 700 fully destroyed homes, Sadegh announced that government plans are underway to lease alternative housing for affected families — particularly in border regions. The minister also condemned a



Farzaneh Sadegh
● IRNA

recent Israeli airstrike on a road maintenance station in Zanzan Province in north, which killed five road workers who were performing essential winter maintenance tasks, including gravel and salt spreading. She added that the Shariati Bridge connecting Zanzan and Qazvin was struck in a previous attack but was fully restored within three days, underscoring the resilience of Iran's infrastructure teams.

Supply chains hold strong

Sadegh emphasized that despite repeated strikes on roads, bridges, and maintenance stations, Iran's supply chains remain fully operational. "The supply of essential goods is being maintained with

strength and determination," she said, crediting the efforts of "patriotic truck drivers" who have kept the nation's logistics network running. She highlighted a record-breaking performance during the 12-day Israeli-imposed war in June, noting that truckers are now active at all major ports and are immediately loading and unloading cargo across the country.

Over 19m tons transported

"Since the beginning of the war, over 19 million tons of goods have been transported across Iran's road network," Sadegh said. "Despite the enemy's numerous attacks on infrastructure, we have not allowed the national road

transport system to falter."

4 million passengers relocated

She also reported that more than 4 million passengers have been relocated across the country during the conflict, thanks to coordinated efforts by provincial authorities.

With expanded powers granted to provincial governors — especially in border regions — Sadegh confirmed that border crossings previously closed have now been reopened, and transportation and movement of people and goods are fully resumed.

Over 1.1m tons of essential goods delivered

The minister confirmed that in just the past two weeks, more than 1.1 million tons of essential goods have been cleared through Iran's ports. "The processes of unloading, loading, and customs clearance are proceeding at full speed," she said, adding that warehouse capacity — both inside and outside port zones — has been carefully assessed and optimized. "There is no shortage of essential goods," Sadegh said. "Shoppers can see for themselves — no supermarket is empty. This is the result of both government planning and the united efforts of all actors in the supply chain, working with full commitment. She also confirmed that medical supplies are being prepared and delivered in coordination with the Ministry of Health, with all government agencies operating under maximum inter-ministerial coordination.

Iran joins int'l renewable energy certification system

Economy Desk

Iran has been registered as a new member of the International Electrotechnical Commission's (IEC) system for evaluating renewable energy conformity, the Iranian National Standards Organization announced.

Farahnaz Qalasi, the deputy for standardization and promotion at the organization, stated that the IEC Secretariat officially recognized Iran's membership in the IECRE System.

She added that the membership covers wind and photovoltaic energy sectors and aims to strengthen Iran's presence in international conformity assessment mechanisms and develop technical cooperation on renewable energy equipment.

"This marks the third IEC conformity assessment system Iran has joined, demonstrating the expansion of the country's international interactions in this field," Qalasi said, according to the ILNA.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is already a member of other IEC conformity assessment systems, including those for equipment used in explosive atmospheres and for testing and certifying electrical equipment components.

The government aims to install 30,000 MW of non-fossil capacity over the next three years amid an expected power shortfall next year. According to the Energy Ministry, the country is expected to face a power shortfall of between 17,000 and 20,000 megawatts next year.



● IRNA

Iran moves 50,000 artifacts to secure vaults as threats grow to national treasures

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has transferred more than 50,000 historical artifacts to secure storage facilities across the country as a precaution against damage from the ongoing US-Israeli military strikes that began on February 28, the head of Iran's National and World Heritage Bases said on March 15. Farhad Azizi-Zallani said the emergency operation forms part of a broader effort to safeguard museums and historic monuments amid escalating security risks.

IRNA reported. "The transfer of some artifacts to safe repositories and the installation of the Blue Shield were carried out as preventive steps to ensure the protection and security of historical objects," he said. The Blue Shield initiative, established in 1996 under the framework of the 1954 Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property during armed conflict, is often described as a cultural equivalent of the Red Cross. Its emblem identifies monuments and collections that must be shielded from

Jahan Square and Chehel Sotoun Palace, as well as the historic Khorramabad Valley and nearby prehistoric caves.

According to him, blast waves shattered wooden lattice windows known as orsi and damaged decorative features at multiple sites. "Openings, doors and orsi frames were destroyed and parts of the mirrorwork, stucco ornamentation and wooden decorations were harmed," he said of the Golestan Palace complex.

In Isfahan, the Chehel Sotoun palace also suffered

ers including mirrorwork, stucco and valuable wall paintings were affected," he said. Historic buildings in the western city of Sanandaj also recorded damage. The Khosroabad mansion, Sal-ar Saeed mansion and Asef Vaziri house, known as the Kurdish House, lost sections of their wooden lattice windows and interior decorative elements after shockwaves from nearby strikes rippled through the historic district. The official said Iran's cultural authorities had circulated detailed protection guidelines to heritage managers before the crisis escalated and had opened urgent communication channels with UNESCO once the attacks began. He said documentation of the damage is now underway through digital recording and technical surveys. Expert teams are compiling detailed restoration files while emergency stabilization work has begun at several monuments, including Golestan Palace.

"Under international obligations, attacks on cultural heritage contradict the fundamental principles of international law," he said. "Iran will pursue this matter through legal and diplomatic channels and expects responsible international bodies to take a clear position in defense of humanity's shared heritage."



● IRNA

Authorities have also installed the internationally recognized "Blue Shield" emblem at most major heritage sites, museums and historic complexes to signal protected cultural property under international law,

military attack. Iranian heritage officials say several high-profile cultural landmarks have sustained damage during the recent strikes. Among the affected sites are Tehran's Golestan Palace, Isfahan's Naqsh-e

structural and decorative damage after nearby explosions struck administrative buildings close to the Safavid-era monument. "The wooden orsi windows and openings were destroyed and Safavid decorative lay-

Fajr Visual Arts Festival resumes online



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran relaunch the 18th Fajr Visual Arts Festival in a virtual format on March 15 after the event was halted following recent wartime attacks, the festival's policy council chief Aydin Mehdizadeh said.

Mehdizadeh said the festival's exhibitions were temporarily suspended on February 28 after what he described as a "US-Zionist attack" on Iran that killed Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and several senior military commanders, plunging the country into mourning, IRNA reported.

"The festival secretariat was preparing the remaining exhibitions when the attack occurred on February 28," Mehdizadeh said,

adding that organizers decided to close the displays "temporarily" until conditions allowed them to reopen.

He said the cultural event had formally begun days earlier. The opening bell of the 18th edition was rung beside the historic Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System in southwestern Iran, while the main exhibition titled Baba Ab Dad (Father Gave Water) opened on February 26 at the Imam Ali Religious Arts Museum in Tehran.

Organizers had also prepared a series of additional exhibitions under themes including "Festival of Festivals" and "National Unity", intended for public viewing across the capital. Those displays will now be staged online because of the war.



"Given the current circumstances, the exhibitions will be held virtually," Mehdizadeh said.

According to the festival secretariat, the works will be available to the public from Sunday, March 15, via the official website of the Fajr Visual Arts Festival. The Fajr arts festivals, staged annually around the anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, form the country's flagship state-backed cultural showcase, spanning cinema, theater, music and visual arts and drawing artists from across Iran and abroad.