

SEO takes lead in rebuilding Mobarakeh, Khuzestan steel industries

Steel product exports continue uninterrupted: **TPO**

Economy Desk

Iran's capital market has stepped forward to assist in the reconstruction of Mobarakeh Steel and Khuzestan Steel, both targeted in recent US-Israel attacks.

Hojatollah Seidi, head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), said on Friday that the capital market "will spare no effort to gather capital for building a bigger and better Mobarakeh Steel and a stronger Khuzestan Steel in the shortest possible time."

The two listed companies, Mobarakeh Steel in the central province of Isfahan and Khuzestan Steel in the southwestern Khuzestan Province, which are owned by shareholders, were hit multiple times by the American-Zionist enemy during the war that began on February 28.

Following the second attack on Mobarakeh Steel on Tuesday, the complex issued a statement on Thursday saying, "Based on assessments conducted so far of the heavy attacks, the damage and fundamental destruction to units related to the production process indicates a complete shutdown of production lines."

The statement added, "To preserve human capital as the organization's most important asset, all employees are requested to refrain from visiting the Mobarakeh Steel complex until further notice."



● ISNA

Export process continues

The Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran also announced on Thursday that no decision has been made regarding export restrictions on steel and mining products, and any potential decision will be officially announced only through the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and the Trade Development Organization.

Meanwhile, official reports indicate that Iran's steel export process continues without disruption. In recent days, three large steel shipments have departed from Iranian ports for foreign markets, demonstrating the resilience of Iran's foreign trade in the steel sector even amid heightened tensions.

In response to the targeting of Iran's steel industries, the spokesperson for the Central Headquarters of Khatam al-Anbiya said during a joint operation by the Aerospace and Naval Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Wave 90 of Operation True Promise 4 targeted US steel and aluminum industries in Abu Dhabi, US aluminum industries in Bahrain, and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems of the Israeli regime. The statement said the strikes were a warning, adding that any further attacks on Iranian industries would trigger "a far more devastating response targeting the occupying regime's critical infrastructure and US economic facilities across the region."

India purchases oil from Iran for first time in seven years: **Report**

Economy Desk

India Today reported that India, which was once forced to abandon Iranian oil under US sanctions, has turned back to Tehran, with an oil tanker carrying Iranian crude heading to the Asian country for the first time since May 2019. According to ISNA on Thursday, after the US-Israeli aggression on Iran began on February 28 and Strait of Hormuz traffic was disrupted, Washington issued a waiver allowing India to purchase oil and gas from Russia and Iran, both sanctioned by the US.

According to India Today, an oil tanker carrying Iranian oil with a foreign flag is expected to dock at Vadinar in Dindayal Gujarat port by April 4. While New Delhi has turned back to discounted Russian crude that once triggered US President Donald Trump's tariffs, the purchase of Iranian oil represents a significant shift in India's energy supply. However, an official from India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways expressed ignorance about this. Mokesh Mangal, reacting to the news that an Iranian oil tanker is heading to India, said: "The government has no specific information about this ship."



Tensions have been heightened following the joint US-Israeli aggression on Iran on February 28. While major shipping companies have suspended operations in the region, tankers linked to Iran continue to transit the strategic waterway.

The Economist reported on Sunday that Tehran is currently exporting between 2.4 and 2.8 million barrels of oil per day. The publication noted that while Iranian tankers continue to transit the Strait of Hormuz, Iran is now selling nearly twice as much oil as before February 28. With the Strait of Hormuz largely closed, the publica-

tion wrote that 15 percent of world oil cannot reach its customers. All Persian Gulf countries have reduced their production and are seeing a decline in export revenues, but Iran has been an exception.

Iran is exporting the same amount of oil and petroleum products per day, if not more, as it did on average last year, according to a source who spoke to the Economist. Also, Bloomberg reported that Iranian oil is trading at a price higher than Brent, the global benchmark, for the first time since May 2022. Brent crude traded at \$109 per barrel in Friday's trading.

Karaj's unfinished B1 Bridge damaged

US-Israel targeting of civilian infrastructure exposes 'moral collapse'

Social Desk

US President Donald Trump on Thursday claimed responsibility for targeting and damaging Iran's B1 Bridge, recognized as the tallest bridge in the Middle East and a masterpiece of Iranian engineering in Karaj, a day after he threatened to bomb the country "back to the stone ages".

The B1 Bridge was a key infrastructure project for Alborz Province and was slated for official inauguration in the near future.

The US president shared footage of part of the newly built 136 meter-tall \$400 million B1 suspension bridge between Tehran and Karaj collapsing dramatically on to the causeway below amid a rising plume of black smoke.

The middle of the bridge was struck twice. Later imagery showed a clear gap at the heart of what had been one of Iran's premier infrastructure projects.

While the full extent of the structural damage is being assessed, officials confirmed the site has sustained significant impacts. The strikes have also taken the lives of eight innocent civilians so far.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the US strikes on civilian infrastructure, including the unfinished bridge in Karaj, demonstrate Wash-



A part of the unfinished B1 Bridge has collapsed following two air strikes by the US on this civilian infrastructure on April 2, 2026. ● IRNA

ington's "defeat and moral collapse," stressing that such attacks will not force Iranians to surrender.

In a post on his X account on Thursday, Araghchi argued that while Iran will rebuild stronger, the damage to America's global standing will be irreversible.

The B1 Bridge is widely regarded as a pinnacle of domestic engineering capability, designed to facilitate major transit corridors and alleviate traffic congestion in the Alborz and Tehran regions.

Iran's deputy minister of Roads and Urban Development noted that since the beginning of the imposed war, many bridges in Iran have come under attack, including a bridge on the Kermanshah-Hamil-Illam freeway route.

"That bridge was immediately repaired and put back into operation by our young people, and they did not allow any problems to arise for the public; they will continue to do so here as well," said Houshang Bazvand.

The US and the Israeli regime launched a large-scale unprovoked military campaign against Iran following the assassination of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, along with several senior military commanders and civilians, on February 28.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces have carried out retaliatory operations, targeting American and Israeli positions in the occupied territories and at regional bases with waves of missiles and drones.

WHO chief slams attacks on Pasteur Institute, medical centers

Social Desk

Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has lashed out at the US and Israeli attacks against the Pasteur Institute and medical centers in Iran.

In a message republished by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on X (formerly, Twitter), he wrote, "Multiple attacks on health have been reported in the Iranian capital, Tehran, in recent days amid escalating conflict in the Middle East."

"The Pasteur Institute in Iran sustained significant damage and was rendered unable to continue delivery health services," he added.

Founded in 1920, he noted, the Pasteur Institute has been active in various fields of medical research for more than a century. It plays a significant role in protecting and promoting public health, including in emergencies. Two of its departments have also served as collaborating centers with the World Health Organization

(WHO).

The WHO chief went on to say that the Delaram Sina Psychiatric Hospital suffered serious damage following an attack on March 29, and the Tofigh Daru Pharmaceutical Complex, which produces drugs needed to treat cancer and multiple sclerosis (MS), was damaged in another attack on March 31. No casualties were reported in these incidents.

Since March 1, the World Health Organi-

zation has confirmed more than 20 attacks on health centers in Iran, resulting in at least nine deaths, including an infectious disease worker and a member of the Iranian Red Crescent Society. According to the director general, attacks on medical centers were not limited to Tehran and have also been reported outside the capital; for example, on March 21, an explosion near Imam Ali Hospital in Andimeshk County,

Khuzestan Province, caused the evacuation of the facility and the suspension of its services.

"The conflicts in Iran and the region have affected the provision of medical services as well as the security of health workers, patients, and civilians in medical centers," he concluded.

Spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Esmail Baqaei also strongly condemned the recent US-Israeli strike on the Pasteur Institute of Iran.

In a message posted on his X account on Thursday, Baqaei described the attack on one of the region's oldest and most respected public health and research institutions as a deeply disturbing act, stressing that targeting such a facility goes beyond conventional wartime violations.

"Heartbreaking, cruel, despicable, and utterly outrageous... This is not merely another war crime committed as part of an illegal war; it is a barbaric assault on basic human core values," the spokesman added.



The photo shows a building at the Pasteur Institute of Iran reduced to rubble as a result of the barbaric US-Israeli attack on this historic and groundbreaking scientific facility. ● X