

US-Zionist coalition strikes Iranian infrastructure, including petrochemical plants in Khuzestan

Economy Desk

A US-Zionist coalition carried out airstrikes on Saturday targeting multiple Iranian infrastructure facilities, including five petrochemical companies in Khuzestan province and the Bushehr nuclear power plant complex, according to local officials.

Deputy Security and Police Governor of Khuzestan Valiullah Hayati told IRNA that multiple airstrikes occurred in various regions of the southwestern province, including Ahvaz, Mahshahr, and Shalamcheh.

A statement from the spokesperson for the emergency situation committee of the Mahshahr Special Petrochemical Economic Zone stated that the petrochemical companies Fajr 1 and 2, Regal, Amir Kabir, and Bu Ali, as well as the Mahshahr special zone, were targeted in the American-Zionist enemy airstrikes on Mahshahr in Khuzestan. According to the decision of the emergency command committee, all forces from active industrial units in the area were fully evacuated.

The statement announced that rescue, HSE, and firefighting teams arrived at the accident sites immediately and are currently extinguishing the fires. Meanwhile, the National



● TASNIM

Petrochemical Company announced that the situation is under control and the technical aspects and extent of damages incurred are under investigation.

According to Hayati, five injuries have been confirmed so far from the attack on the Mahshahr special petrochemical zone and Imam Khomeini Port.

Hayati emphasized that casualties, including martyrs and wounded, are likely, and further investigations are underway.

No toxic material leaks

He added that no toxic material leaks have occurred at the petrochemical plants in the special economic zone.

According to managers of Fajr Energy Persian Gulf, following strikes on Fajr 1 and 2, electricity to all Mahshahr petrochemical plants sup-

plied by Fajr Energy Persian Gulf has been cut off.

Border infrastructure hit

Hayati said the Shalamcheh border commercial terminal in Khorramshahr was targeted in an airstrike and sustained serious damage.

Additionally, one person was killed in a renewed enemy attack on the Bushehr nuclear power plant in southern Iran. On Saturday morning, a projectile struck the area surrounding the Bushehr nuclear power plant. As a result of the explosion wave and fragments from this attack, one of the auxiliary buildings of the plant was damaged, and unfortunately one of the physical protection staff members of the plant was martyred.

Previously, the American-Zionist enemy had struck the Bushehr nuclear power plant

complex three times since February 28.

Also, Ahmad Nafisi, the deputy governor of Hormozgan province announced that the invading US army and Zionist regime carried out a drone attack on the Bandar Khamir cement factory, which was met with alertness by forces stationed in the area and resulted in no casualties.

In response to attacks on Iranian infrastructure, several US and Israel-dependent industrial facilities in the region have been targeted. A recent statement by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) had 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."

According to the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, from the start of the US-Israel war on February 28 to April 1, 90,000 residential, commercial, and office units in the private sector have been damaged.

According to the report, a total of 89,706 units in 24 provinces have been evaluated and registered for damage, of which 16,170 units are in major cities (cities with a population of one million or more), and 73,536 units are in other cities and villages.

Minister: President orders 6-million-ton strategic food reserve

'No shortage despite 90m population'

Economy Desk

Iran's Agriculture Minister announced Saturday that President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued an order to maintain minimum reserves of 6 million tons of essential agricultural products amid US-Israeli war launched on February 28. Speaking at a consultative meeting with members of the Parliament's Agriculture Commission, Gholamreza Noori Qezelgeh emphasized the importance of sustainable production and continuous supply of essential goods.

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

Noting that Iran has navigated a challenging year marked by ongoing regional conflicts, the minister identified effective management of essential goods supply and clearance as key to maintaining market stability.

"In a country of 90 million people, no serious shortage in goods supply has occurred," Noori Qezelgeh stated, contrasting Iran's situation with other nations in

the region.

He pointed to the United Arab Emirates, where several million residents faced food shortages and empty store shelves, as well as Israel, which he said is confronting fundamental challenges in essential goods supply.

The meeting also emphasized supporting people's livelihoods during wartime conditions and strengthening the resistance economy in agriculture through cooperation between the government and Parliament.

During a separate visit to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Noori Qezelgeh met with agency CEO Hossein Jaber Ansari, managers, and journalists. The minister presented a comprehensive report on goods supply, strategic reserves, and market regulation, thanking journalists for their efforts in conveying government services and informing the public during wartime conditions.

"Your cooperation and reporting, especially during sensitive times and important occasions, has played a significant role in advancing the ministry's goals and building public confidence, particularly regarding the supply of essential goods," the minister said.

Egypt considers war on Iran unjustified

INTERVIEW

The trajectory of Iran-Egypt relations over the past year can best be described as a "slow ascent". Despite numerous variables and various ups and downs, the two nations have reached a functional level of mutual understanding, fostering a positive outlook for their bilateral relations. Over the last 12 months, Tehran and Cairo have sought to maintain ties through a series of actions, decisions, and high-level contacts — the most significant of which was likely the signing of the new agreement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency in the Egyptian capital, brokered by Cairo. Currently, Egypt finds itself positioned in the midst of a war imposed on Iran by the Israeli regime and the United States, as it strives to prevent further escalation and find a path toward ending the conflict.

The following is a translated excerpt from a dialogue with Abdolmir Nabavi, a regional affairs analyst and professor at the University of Tehran, regarding the state of Iran-Egypt relations during this past year of tension and upheaval.



Abdolmir Nabavi

Following Iran's retaliatory strikes on American bases in several Arab countries in the Persian Gulf, some of these capitals now find their relations with Iran strained. How will these tensions impact Iran's relations with Egypt as a major Arab power?

NABAVI: Regarding the impact of current tensions on Iran-Egypt relations, it must be said that these effects are already being felt. Egypt has been clear and transparent in its call for an end to the war, stating that hostilities must conclude as soon as possible. During a recent call between the presidents of the two countries, the Egyptian president emphasized this point. Currently, all Arab nations, including Egypt, are waiting for a formal end to the conflict, a cease-fire, and the clarification of preliminary results before articulating their positions more explicitly. Furthermore, while Egypt considers the attack on Iran to be unjustified, it has simultaneously urged Iran

to exercise restraint regarding attacks on regional Arab countries.

It is important to note that neither Egypt nor other regional Arab states desire the defeat or disintegration of Iran; such a scenario would carry devastating negative consequences for the entire region. However, they are equally unenthusiastic about Iranian hegemony or the re-strengthening of the Resistance Axis. Therefore, while Egypt wants an end to the conflict and does not wish for Iran's defeat, it also does not support an absolute victory for Iran. This duality explains why some countries maintain a cautious approach toward upgrading diplomatic ties.

What are Egypt's primary concerns regarding the ongoing and intensifying military tensions between Iran and the United States?

Egypt's actions are driven by two categories of concerns. The first are "general concerns" shared by Egypt



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) and his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

and other Arab states in the region. The foremost worry is the escalation of the crisis into an all-out regional war, which could severely impact the economies and security of various nations, including Egypt. It is evident that as the crisis deepens, the existing pressures on the economic and security sectors of Arab nations will only intensify. The second general concern is that the war might result in a "total victory" for

either Iran or Israel. Neither outcome is acceptable to Arab nations, including Egypt, as it would lead to the emergence of a dominant regional hegemon and a subsequent redrawing of the political map — a scenario that serves none of these countries' interests. In reality, regional Arab states see their interests in maintaining a balance of power. If either Iran or Israel achieves hegemony and

becomes the sole regional superpower, it would shatter the previous equilibrium and increase political, economic, and security pressures on these countries in the years to come. Egypt's third general concern is that a prolonged war and escalating crisis will harm its Arab allies, particularly the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. These nations have invested heavily in Egypt and main-

tain close military and security cooperation with Cairo. Any strain on their economies could disrupt and damage their investments in Egypt, as well as compromise bilateral military and security partnerships. Despite having a vulnerable economy, Egypt possesses one of the largest and most significant militaries in the region and cannot remain silent in the face of the current situation.

However, there are also two concerns specific to Egypt. The first is that a continuing crisis could harm the transit of ships and tankers through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. If Yemen's Ansarullah (the Houthis) becomes more deeply involved in the conflict, maritime traffic will be disrupted. This would compromise Egypt's security in the Red Sea and cause a further decline in Suez Canal revenues. It is worth noting that during the previous round of maritime disruptions, Egypt's foreign revenue reportedly dropped by three to 10 bil-

lion dollars — a significant blow to an already fragile economy. A repeat of this would leave Egypt's economy and security even more vulnerable.

Egypt's other specific concern is the potential for a resurgence of radical activities in the region, particularly within its own borders. Experience shows that in times of war and crisis, terrorist groups and radical movements thrive on instability. The Egyptians are worried that the Sinai Peninsula — an area that has faced numerous security challenges in recent years — could be affected once again. Furthermore, there is a concern that groups like Hamas could exploit the situation to intensify their activities in Gaza. Consequently, Egypt stands to lose from a rise in regional radicalism, which is a key reason why it is advocating for the swiftest possible end to the hostilities.

The interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.